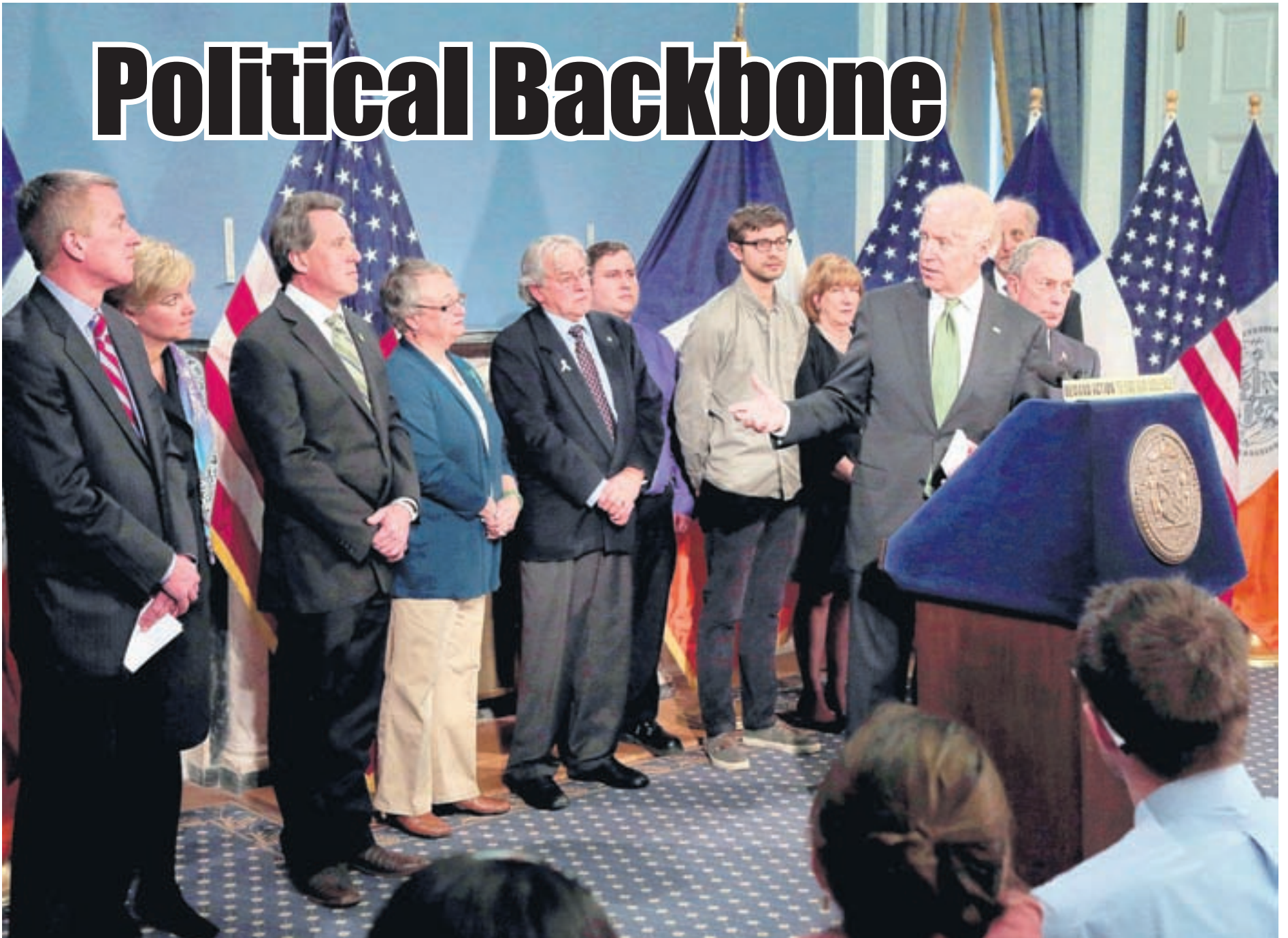


Political Backbone



Vice President Joe Biden, left, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with family members of victims of the elementary school massacre in Newtown, Conn., during a news conference at City Hall in New York, March 21, 2013. Biden and Bloomberg spoke about the need for stronger gun laws during the conference.
(Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

Biden joins Bloomberg in push for gun limits

RAY RIVERA

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK – Vice President Joe Biden joined New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and some families of the victims in the Connecticut school shootings Thursday to push for new federal gun laws, just days after Senate Democrats dropped an assault weapons ban from a gun-regulation package they plan to consider next month. Biden urged lawmakers to show some political backbone and to “think about

Newtown,” the site of the shootings, as they considered stricter gun regulations.

“For all those who say we shouldn’t and can’t ban assault weapons, for all those who say the politics are too hard, how can they say that?” Biden said at a news conference in the Blue Room at City Hall. “You take a look at those 20 beautiful babies, and what happened, and those six teachers and administrators.”

Many gun-control advo-

cates had made bans of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines the centerpieces of their legislative agendas in the aftermath of the Dec. 14 school shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary. The gunman, Adam Lanza, carried high-capacity ammunition magazines and used a military-style assault weapon to fatally shoot 20 first graders and six adults at the school, before he killed himself.

But despite high-profile ef-

forts by Biden and President Barack Obama and emotional testimony from families of the Newtown victims, support for the bans failed to materialize in Congress amid resistance from gun-rights groups like the National Rifle Association.

The call for an assault weapons ban, led by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is still expected to go to the Senate floor for a vote, as an amendment to the bill, next month. And other lawmakers, including Sen.

Chris Murphy, D-Conn., are pushing for a vote on high-capacity magazines. But the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, D-Nev., has indicated that neither measure has the votes needed to pass.

Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse Lewis, was among those killed at Sandy Hook, wept in a Senate hearing last month as he held a framed portrait of him and urged Congress to enact the bans.

Continued on Page 3

Obama renews call for 2-state solution in Middle East

Mark Landler

© 2013 New York Times

RAMALLAH, West Bank — President Barack Obama, visiting the Israeli-occupied West Bank, appeared to move closer to the Israeli

position Thursday regarding resumption of long-stalled peace talks with the Palestinians, stopping short of insisting on a halt to Israel's settlement expansion as he had done early

in his first term. Hours after rockets from the Palestinian enclave of Gaza hit southern Israel, Obama met with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority on the second day

of Obama's Middle East trip, and challenged both sides to resume face-to-face talks, pledging that the United States "would do our part." Obama condemned the rocket at-

tacks, which came in violation of a three-month cease-fire, but he insisted that the Israelis should not use violence as an excuse to avoid negotiations, no more than the Palestinians should insist that Israel halt construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank as a condition.

"If we're going to be successful, part of what we're going to have to do is get out of the formulas and habits that have blocked progress," Obama said in a news conference with Abbas. "Both sides are going to have to think anew."

Abbas reiterated his demand that Israel halt settlement construction, but he did not explicitly cite that as a condition for entering into direct talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Talks have basically been stalled since 2010.

"It is the duty of the Israeli government to at least halt the activity, so we can speak of the issues," Abbas said in Arabic, speaking through a translator. "The issue of settlements is clear: we never gave up our vision, whether now or previously." Abbas, who met with Obama for more than an hour at the fortresslike headquarters of the Palestinian Authority here, did not condemn the rocket attacks in his statement.

Majlis Shura al-Mujahedeen, a Salafi group, claimed responsibility for the rockets, saying in a statement that they were a message from "bin Laden soldiers" to Obama that Americans should not feel secure as long as Muslims do not. For Obama, even a brief foray to the West Bank on the second day of his trip was enough to plunge him back into the diplomatic nuances and perils of Middle East peacemaking. What was surprising, given how much Obama appeared to give up on the peace process at the end of his first term, was how ready he seemed to take up the challenge once again of trying to broker a deal that creates a Palestinian state side-by-side with Israel. □



President Barack Obama speaks at International Convention Center in Jerusalem, March 21, 2013. President Obama, visiting the Israeli-occupied West Bank, appeared to move closer to the Israeli position on Thursday regarding resumption of long-stalled peace talks with the Palestinians.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

AP source: Chemical weapons unlikely in attack

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. has strong indications that chemical weapons were not used in the attack in Syria's Aleppo province on Tuesday, a U.S. administration official said Thursday.

While officials won't entirely rule out the possibility, the official said that additional intelligence-gathering in recent days has led the U.S. to believe more strongly that it was not a weaponized chemical attack. The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the matter because it involved intelligence gathering and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. and allies have been looking into allegations by the Syrian regime that rebels carried out a chemical weapons attack

on Khan al-Assal village in northern Aleppo province. The rebels have blamed regime forces.

U.S. officials said they were able to determine that an attack did take place in that area. Officials, however, did not rule out the possibility that some type of nonlethal chemical — which could include riot control or tear gas-type materials — might have been used.

Syria is widely believed to have a large stockpile of chemical weapons. And, there are fears President Bashar Assad would use those weapons against his people in the ongoing civil war and also concerns that al-Qaida-linked rebels might obtain and use them. The United Nations announced Thursday that it would investigate the possible use of chemical weap-

ons in Syria, which would amount to a crime against humanity. The probe could also help determine the security of the weapons stockpile.

"My announcement should serve as an unequivocal reminder that the use of chemical weapons is a crime against humanity," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

"The international community needs full assurance that chemical weapons stockpiles are verifiably safeguarded."

France and Britain sent a letter Thursday to Ban asking for an investigation of three alleged chemical weapons attacks. Ban will review the suggestion as the U.N. develops the mandate for the investigation. U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

In their letter, France and

Britain raised allegations of chemical weapons use in two locations in Khan al-Assal and the village of Ataybah in the vicinity of Damascus on Tuesday, and in Homs on Dec. 23. The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, asked the U.N. chief to launch "an urgent investigation into all allegations as expeditiously as possible."

Intelligence reports late last year showed the Syrian regime may be readying its chemical weapons and could be desperate enough to use them. Those reports prompted a sharp warning from President Barack Obama, who said that Syria's use or movement of its chemical weapons stockpile would change his "calculus" about whether the U.S. might intervene militarily in the conflict. □

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Biden joins Bloomberg in push for gun limits

On Thursday, an emotional Heslin chastised lawmakers for failing to take action.

"Quite honestly, I'm really ashamed to see that Congress doesn't have the guts to stand up and make a change and put a ban on these types of weapons," he said, speaking barely above a mumble.

Biden joined in the scolding.

"It must be awful to be in public office and conclude and believe in your heart that you should take action but you can't take action because of the political consequences," he said. "What a heck of a way to have to make a living."

Chris and Lynn McDonnell, whose daughter, Grace, 7, was killed, were at the news conference, as were several relatives and the boyfriend of Lauren Rousseau, a teacher who was killed. In a private meeting before the news conference, her father, Gilles Rousseau, gave the mayor and vice president each a teddy bear. The teddy bears were among thousands that people from around the country have sent the families since the attack. The families have been giving them out to



Vice President Joe Biden, left, accompanied by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, speaks in New York's City Hall Blue Room, Thursday, March 21, 2013. Relatives of shooting victims from Newtown, Conn., stood with Bloomberg and Biden as they spoke in favor of an assault weapons ban.

people who have been helpful, and those they hope will help in preventing another mass shooting. Biden sounded a note of optimism, pointing to the federal assault weapons ban that Congress passed

in 1994. That ban expired in 2004.

"I was told in 1992 that there was no way; you would never beat the gun lobby – it was not possible," he said. "Well, in 1994, we did."

Bloomberg, who has spent millions of dollars of his personal fortune in support of stauncher gun regulations, said he would continue to push for an assault weapons ban and called the pending vote a chance to

hold lawmakers accountable.

"It will get a vote by the full Senate, and everyone is going to have to stand up and say yea or nay," the mayor said, "and the rest of us are going to have to decide just how we feel about those people and how they stand."

Bloomberg's focus, through his backing of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, has been on expanding background checks on gun purchases.

About 40 percent of such purchases are not subject to background checks now, studies show. Expanded background checks enjoy popular support, even among many gun owners and dealers, but some Republicans equate them with a national gun registry.

"There is no doubt that requiring background checks for all gun sales saves lives, and there is no doubt that the American people support it," Bloomberg said. "The only question is whether Congress will have the courage to do the right thing or whether they will allow more innocent people, including innocent children, to be gunned down." □

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Civil unions signed into law in Colorado

IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Civil unions for gay couples got the governor's signature in Colorado on Thursday, punctuating a dramatic turnaround in a state where voters banned same-sex marriage in 2006 and restricted protections for gays two decades ago. Colorado will join eight states that have civil unions or similar laws. Nine states and the District of Columbia allow gay marriage.

Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper signed the bill as dozens of gay couples looked on during the signing ceremony. The law takes effect May 1.

Views on gay rights have been rapidly shifting in the United States. A Pew Research Center survey found that 49 percent of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, and 44 percent are opposed to the idea. A decade ago, 58 percent opposed it and a third supported it.

Civil unions grant gay couples rights similar to marriage, including enhanced inheritance and parental rights.

People in civil unions also would have the ability to make medical decisions for their partners.

"It means I can change my name finally," said 21-year-old Amber Fuentes, who plans to have a civil union with Yolanda Martinez, 34. "It's not marriage, but it still gives us a lot of the rights." The signing in Colorado comes less than a year after the proposal was blocked in the House by Republicans.

"It's really meaningful. To have the recognition of your love and relationship just like any other relationship by the state is an important both legal and symbolic thing," said Democratic House Speaker Mark Ferrandino, a sponsor of the bill and the first gay lawmaker to hold the title of speaker in Colorado. □

US House passes plan to avert shutdown

JONATHAN WEISMAN
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — The House gave final approval Thursday to legislation to avert a federal shutdown and keep the government funded through September, and it passed a Republican budget blueprint that enshrined the party's vision of a balanced budget that would substantially shrink government, privatize Medicare and rewrite the tax code to make it simpler and flatter.

With a final flurry, Republican leaders sent the House

makes permanent four formerly temporary gun-rights provisions just as Senate Democrats prepare a final push on gun control legislation.

Four months after Obama was re-elected, the separate House budget plan — the third drafted by Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, the House Budget Committee chairman and former vice-presidential nominee — reaffirms the blueprint for governance the president ran against. It would convert Medicare into a system of private insurance

licans voting no.

That balance, however, rests on some significant assumptions. To make spending align with revenues, the plan assumes the current level of taxes will continue, even as it repeals the tax increases in the president's health care law and eliminates the alternative minimum tax. The plan directs the tax writers on the House Ways and Means Committee to overhaul the tax code, leaving only two tax brackets, 25 percent and 10 percent, as well as a 25 percent cor-

— a crucial talking point for Republicans, especially because the Senate Democratic version does not come close to balance.

"The president has an opportunity during this critical debate to come forward and make this part of his legacy," Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio said of that final year with a balanced budget. "We can't continue to spend money we don't have. It's as simple as that."

Ryan said his budget and the Democratic version likely to pass the Senate by



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 21, 2013. The Republican-controlled House gave final approval Thursday to legislation that would keep the federal government funded through September. (Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

home before noon Thursday for a two-week recess, confident that they had outmaneuvered President Barack Obama and the Democrats in the running fiscal fight from the last redoubt of Republican control in Washington.

The funding plan for the rest of the fiscal year, which passed by a vote of 318-109, locks in across-the-board spending cuts that will usher in the most austere government outlook in decades. It underfunds key elements of the president's health care law, as the administration builds up health insurance purchasing exchanges. And it

plans financed by federal vouchers and roll back many of Obama's signature legislative accomplishments, repealing the health care overhaul of 2009, eliminating the subsidized insurance exchanges and Medicaid expansion that make up the core of the law.

It would undo the Wall Street regulatory law passed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis bank and cut spending by \$4.6 trillion through 2023, the year the plan purports to bring the budget into balance.

It passed 221-207, with all Democrats and 10 Repub-

licate tax rate, down from 35 percent.

But the budget does not detail the tax deductions, credits and loopholes that would need to be eliminated or cut back to finance such deep tax-rate reductions, effectively leaving tax writers a \$6 trillion hole to fill — one that Democrats say is mathematically impossible without raising the tax burden of the middle class. Still, as a political document, the budget makes an uncompromising statement in the wake of the Republicans' electoral losses. Unlike his first two budgets, this one ends with a small federal surplus

Saturday "clarifies the divide between us."

"We want to balance the budget. They don't," he said Thursday. "We want to restrain spending. They want to spend more."

"We offer modernization, reform, growth and opportunity," he continued. "They want to cling to the status quo, more taxing, more spending, more borrowing."

Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking Democrat on the Budget Committee, called the document "an uncompromising, ideological approach to our budget issues." □

New York City:

Judge frees man convicted in 1990 killing of rabbi



David Ranta is hugged by family members after Judge Miriam Cyrułnik freed him, in state Supreme Court in Brooklyn, New York, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man who spent more than two decades behind bars for the cold-blooded slaying of a rabbi in New York City was released Thursday into the arms of his weeping relatives after a reinvesti-

gation by prosecutors cast serious doubt on evidence used to convict him.

The case dated to Feb. 8, 1990, when a gunman botched an attempt to rob a diamond courier in Brooklyn. After the courier escaped unharmed, the man approached the car

of Rabbi Chaskel Werzberger — a Holocaust survivor and a leader of the Satmar Hasidic community — shot him in the forehead, pulled him out of the vehicle and drove away in it. Thousands attended the rabbi's funeral, and then-Mayor David Dinkins of-

fered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

After police picked up unemployed drug addict David Ranta, Hasidic Jews surrounded the car that carried him to jail and chanted, "Death penalty!"

No physical evidence linked Ranta to the crime and the diamond courier never identified him as the bandit. But a jury found him guilty anyway based on witness testimony and circumstantial evidence. He was sentenced to 37½ years in prison.

Before releasing Ranta, Judge Miriam Cyrułnik offered an apology: "To say I'm sorry for what you've endured would be an un-

derstatement. ... But I say it anyway."

Ranta's pregnant daughter — a 2-year-old when he was jailed — sisters and other supporters swarmed him as he walked out of the courtroom. His parents died while he was in prison. "I'm overwhelmed," the 58-year-old Ranta told reporters. "I feel like I'm under water, swimming."

Ranta had claimed he had been rotting in prison for no reason.

"Like I said from the beginning, I had nothing to do with this case," he said outside court.

Prosecutors admitted the case against Ranta was now too "degraded" to hold up in court. □

Senate group near immigration deal

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan group of senators neared agreement on a comprehensive immigration bill that would put illegal immigrants on a 13-year path to citizenship, officials with outside groups keeping up with the talks said Thursday.

The legislation also would install new criteria for border security, allow more high- and low-skilled workers to come to the U.S. and hold businesses to tougher standards on verifying their workers are in the country legally, according to outside groups and lawmakers involved. Together, the measures represent the most sweeping changes in immigration law in decades.

The senators in the so-called Gang of Eight were meeting for hours at a time daily this week trying

to complete a deal. There were still big disagreements on some issues, but they hoped to resolve most of them before Congress began a two-week recess at week's end. That would allow them to meet a self-imposed deadline to present their legislation next month. "We are grappling with a number of issues, we really are, but I think we are making progress," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "Some of these issues are very complicated."

The group was under pressure to speed up its work. Protesters converged Thursday on the office of Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a leader of the group, to accuse him of breaking his initial promise to have the bill done in March. Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., whose panel would take up the legislation, complained this week that the group was taking

too long. As a result, Leahy said, his committee won't be able to complete writing the bill itself in April, as he had hoped.

Several officials with outside groups said the biggest remaining areas of disagreement dealt with legal rather than illegal immigration. Top among them was a proposed program to bring in tens of thousands of new immigrants to fill low-skilled jobs. It had been the subject of difficult negotiations between the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AFL-CIO. Although the two sides had made progress, they had not yet reached agreement on all details about the structure of a new visa program. Senators were mediating offers and counteroffers.

There was more agreement on the path to legalization for the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country. □

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At Press Time: Experts examine possible link between Texas shootout and Colorado slaying

ANGELA K. BROWN
NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

DECATUR, Texas (AP) — A man who could be linked to the slaying of Colorado's state prison chief is likely to die after being shot by Texas authorities following a harrowing car chase there, authorities said Thursday. The suspect is "basically legally dead," although he remains hooked to equipment for organ harvesting at a hospital, Wise County Sheriff David Walker said at a news conference. He said the man is still unidentified.

The shootout ensued after

A deputy in Texas tried to pull over the black Cadillac on Thursday morning. The driver opened fire on the deputy, wounding him, Walker said. He then led authorities on a 100 mph (160 kph) chase that ended when he crashed into a truck, left his car and opened fire on his pursuers. Walker says Colorado investigators are heading to Texas to determine whether he is connected to Clements' killing. The wounded deputy was wearing a bulletproof vest and was not seriously injured, Walker added.

Decatur Police Chief Rex

we are giving it."

In recent weeks, Clements had requested chemicals to plan for the execution of a convict on Colorado's death row and denied a Saudi national's request to serve out the remainder of a sentence in his home country. Officials refused to say whether they were looking at those actions as possible motives.

Clements came to Colorado in 2011 after working three decades in the Missouri prison system. Missouri Department of Corrections spokeswoman Mandi Steele said Thursday the department was ready to



Emergency personnel are on the scene of a crash and shootout with police involving the driver of a black Cadillac with Colorado plates in Decatur, Texas, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jimmy Alford)

the man was stopped while driving a black Cadillac with Colorado plates that matched the description of a vehicle spotted outside the house of Colorado prisons director Tom Clements shortly before he was fatally shot Tuesday.

Clements, 58, was killed as he answered the door to his home Tuesday night in Monument, a town of rolling hills and alpine trees north of Colorado Springs. His death stunned law enforcement colleagues in Colorado and Missouri, where he spent most of his career as a highly respected corrections official.

Police haven't said if they think his death was linked to his job. Similar attacks on public officials are on the rise in the United States, though experts say they remain rare.

Hoskins said the man appeared to be a white man in his 30s. The man shot at Hoskins four times as the chief tried to set up a road block to halt him. He left his car after it crashed and opened fire on the authorities around him, Hoskins said.

"He wasn't planning on being taken alive," Hoskins said.

Investigators in Colorado have been looking for a dark, late-model car, possibly a Lincoln or a Cadillac, that a neighbor spotted near Clements' home around the time of the shooting.

Denver's KMGH-TV reported Thursday that Clements may have put a bicycle up for sale for \$1,200 on Craigslist. Kramer told the station, "I can't speak to the efforts behind this tip, or the level

help in the probe if asked.

"Tom regularly commented that corrections is inherently a dangerous business, and that's all that I'll say," said Alison Morgan, a Colorado corrections spokeswoman who worked closely with Clements.

Officials in positions like Clements' get a deluge of threats, according to people who monitor their safety. But it can be hard sorting out which ones could lead to violence. A U.S. Department of Justice study found that federal prosecutors and judges received 5,250 threats between 2003 and 2008, but there were only three attacks during that time period.

The last public official killed in Colorado in the past 10 years was Sean May, a prosecutor in suburban Denver. □

meltwater
group

A US judge has rejected claims by Meltwater U.S. Holdings Inc. and its Meltwater News Service that its use of Web stories plucked from a scan of 162,000 news websites from more than 190 countries is a fair use of copyright-protected material.

(Handout Photo)

Judge: Aggregator of AP news can't have free ride

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A company that relays excerpts of Internet news articles to its customers violates copyright laws, a judge said Thursday in a decision that gave The Associated Press a victory in its attempts to protect its online news content. U.S. District Judge Denise Cote rejected claims by Meltwater U.S. Holdings Inc. and its Meltwater News Service that its use of Web stories plucked from a scan of 162,000 news websites from more than 190 countries is a fair use of copyright-protected material.

"Investigating and writing about newsworthy events occurring around the globe is an expensive undertaking and enforcement of the copyright laws permits AP to earn the revenue that underwrites that work," Cote wrote in a decision released Thursday. "Permitting Meltwater to take the fruit of AP's labor for its own profit, without compensating AP, injures AP's ability to perform this essential function of democracy."

In a statement, Meltwater said it was disappointed and will appeal. It called the ruling "at odds with a variety of prior decisions that have paved the way for today's Internet."

The judge noted that commercial Internet news clipping services like Meltwater perform an important function for their customers, but that "does not outweigh the strong public interest in the enforcement of the copyright laws or justify allowing Meltwater to free

ride on the costly news gathering and coverage work performed by other organizations. Moreover, permitting Meltwater to avoid paying licensing fees gives it an unwarranted advantage over its competitors who do pay licensing fees."

Meltwater is a 12-year-old electronic news clipping service that helps its clients monitor how they are covered in the press. In its lawsuit, the AP alleged that Meltwater News had been pilfering current and past material from the AP and other news providers without paying licensing fees.

AP CEO Gary Pruitt said: "We are thrilled. This is first and foremost a victory for the public and for democracy." The judge rejected Meltwater's claims that it operates like a search engine.

"Meltwater News is an expensive subscription service that markets itself as a news clipping service, not as a publicly available tool to improve access to content across the Internet," she said. "Instead of driving subscribers to third-party websites, Meltwater News acts as a substitute for news sites operated or licensed by AP."

Cote praised the operation of legitimate search engines. "These interests are complementary. The Internet would be far poorer if it were bereft of the reporting done by news organizations and both are enhanced by the accessibility the Internet provides to news gathered and delivered by news organizations," Cote said. □

Pediatrics group backs gay marriage, says it helps children



Kevin Ryan-Young, left, and Timm Ryan-Young, a married gay couple, with their daughter Zelia Ryan-Young, 6, at their home in New York, March 20, 2013. The American Academy of Pediatrics declared its support for civil same-sex marriage for the first time Thursday, saying that allowing gay and lesbian parents to marry if they so choose is in the best interests of their children.

(Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

CATHERINE SAINT LOUIS

© 2013 New York Times

The American Academy of Pediatrics declared its support for same-sex marriage for the first time Thursday, saying that allowing gay and lesbian parents to marry if they so choose is in the best interests of their children. The academy's

new policy statement says same-sex marriage helps guarantee rights, benefits and long-term security for children, while acknowledging that it does not now ensure access to federal benefits. When marriage is not an option, the academy said, children should not be deprived of foster care

or adoption by single parents or couples, whatever their sexual orientation. The academy's review of scientific literature began more than four years ago, and the result is a 10-page report with 60 citations.

"If the studies are different in their design and sample but the results continue to

be similar, that gives scientists and consumers more faith in the result," said Dr. Ellen Perrin, a co-author of the new policy and a professor of pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine. Other scientists called the evidence lackluster and said the academy's endorsement was premature. Loren Marks, an associate professor of child and family studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, said there was not enough national data to support the pediatric association's position on same-sex marriage. The acad-

emy cited research finding that a child's well-being is much more affected by the strength of relationships among family members and a family's social and economic resources than by the sexual orientation of the parents. "There is an emerging consensus, based on extensive review of the scientific literature, that children growing up in households headed by gay men or lesbians are not disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents," the academy said. □

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Venezuelan students protest, clash with Chavez backers

C. TOOTHAKER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Supporters of the late President Hugo Chavez hurled rocks and bottles Thursday in an attack on student protesters who were marching against perceived bias by Venezuela's electoral council.

At least 10 students were reported injured in the violence that raised tensions in a country already sharply divided ahead of next month's presidential election.

Hundreds of students had gathered at a central plaza in the morning and were making their way to the electoral council headquarters in downtown Caracas when they came upon a police barricade.

About 100 Chavez supporters had gathered behind the barricade in the middle of broad Avenida Universidad and began throwing rocks and bottles at the approaching students. A few students lobbed the objects back, setting off a fierce volley between the two sides. At one point, several Chavez support-

ers pulled a student to the ground and repeatedly kicked him.

National police fired tear gas and scattered most of the students, but some 100 remained behind, left vulnerable to splinter groups

ers have ambushed us," student leader Vilcar Fernandez told The Associated Press.

It was unclear how many people in total had been injured, and police did not release an estimate.

lent acts, but the violence appeared because of minuscule groups that were sent to sabotage a legitimate protest," said student leader Gaby Arellano. She added that none of the students were seriously injured.

from the election council. "The students came with the intention of refusing to recognize the electoral work and to delegitimize it."

The protesters were demanding the electoral council eliminate requirements that voters have their fingerprints recorded before voting. The students also called on the council to stop Nicolas Maduro, the country's acting president, from seizing TV and radio airwaves to promote his candidacy.

Demonstrators further demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Diego Molero, who has publicly supported Maduro. The constitution forbids the military from taking sides in politics, although soldiers are permitted to vote.

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles has strongly criticized the electoral council for failing to stop perceived government bias for Maduro ahead of the April 14 vote.

The news channel Globovision reported that National Guard troops had stopped a bus in Carabobo state carrying 50 students headed for the march, with the troops saying the students needed permission from their university rector to leave the campus. The university told Globovision that the students did not need its permission to leave. □



Venezuela's Bolivarian Police officers stand between a group of opposition student protesters, left, and supporters of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez as the opposition group protests a few blocks from the electoral commission in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

of Chavez supporters who attacked from side streets. Police shooting plastic bullets ultimately repelled the attackers.

"The government support-

At one point, about 100 students were trapped by Chavistas who had blocked all the surrounding streets, preventing them from leaving.

Many of the attackers wore T-shirts bearing the image of the late president and were chanting pro-Chavez slogans.

Police later escorted the students out of the area.

"It wasn't our intention to confront or provoke vio-

The election council sits in a neighborhood claimed by Chavez supporters, who have attacked anti-government demonstrations there in the past.

Later Thursday, pro-Chavez activist Luis Arreaza told TV reporters that his group had mobilized to defend the electoral council from attack.

"The people went out on the streets to defend their institution," Arreaza said

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Cyprus rushes bailout plan as time limit approaches

E. BECATOROS
M. HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cypriot politicians moved Thursday to restructure the country's most troubled bank as part of a broader bailout plan that must be in place by Monday to avoid financial ruin. Concerned customers rushed to get cash from ATMs as bank employees protested. Cyprus has been told it must raise 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) if it is to receive 10 billion euros (\$12.9 billion) from its fellow eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. If it does not find a way by Monday, the European Central Bank said it will cut off emergency support to the banks, letting them collapse. That would throw the country into financial chaos and, ultimately, cause it to leave the eurozone, with unpredictable consequences for the region. Several new bills were being submitted to Parliament Thursday night, including restructuring the banking sector, setting up an "Investment Solidarity Fund" and restricting banking transactions in times



Employees of Laiki bank push barriers as riot police try to stop them during an anti-bailout protest outside the Cypriot parliament, Nicosia, Thursday, March 21, 2013.
(AP Photo/Christos Theodorides)

of crisis. Together, they will make up at least part of the alternative plan Cyprus hopes will secure it bailout money. The lawmakers said the bills would be discussed and potentially voted on Friday morning. The pressure has increased since Parliament on Tuesday rejected an earlier proposal to seize up to 10 percent of people's bank accounts. Banks have been shut since last weekend to avoid a run and will not open until Tuesday at the earliest. Uncertainty was growing among Cypriots as the

at 260 euros (\$340) per person from 700 euros (\$906). Although ATMs have been functioning, many often run out of cash.

"We need cash. We have families, children, grandchildren and expenses, and the banks have been closed since Saturday," said Andri Olympiou after withdrawing money from a Laiki branch in Nicosia, the capital. The central bank governor, Panicos Demetriades, urged lawmakers to vote immediately on a legal framework bill to rehabilitate Cyprus's banking sector.

The bills include restructuring Laiki, a move that would raise an estimated 2 billion euros out of the total 5.8 billion euros Cyprus needs, according to local media. Once it is done, the country would be in a position to guarantee all deposits up to 100,000 euros

(\$130,000) — the EU-wide limit for bank guarantees. Officials said the restructuring would split Laiki into two, with a "bad bank" taking over its soured investments, and a "good bank" retaining the healthy ones. Setting up a bad bank is a strategy that's been used before in Europe's financial crisis, by Ireland and Spain. A bad bank is tasked with recovering as much money as possible from the investments. Without the restructure, Laiki would collapse and drag down the rest of the banking system and the economy, Demetriades said. "The restructuring constitutes a significant step toward the achievement of an economic support agreement for the Cyprus Republic from the European support mechanism and the International Monetary Fund," he said. □

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Syria:

Bombing kills top pro-Assad Sunni preacher, scholar

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A suicide bomb ripped through a mosque in the heart of the Syrian capital Thursday, killing a top Sunni Muslim preacher and outspoken supporter of President Bashar Assad in one of the most stunning assassinations of Syria's 2-year-old civil war. At least 41 others were killed and more than 84 wounded. The slaying of Sheikh Mohammad Said Ramadan al-Buti removes one of the few remaining pillars of support for Assad among the majority Sunni sect that has risen up against him. It also marks a new low in

the Syrian civil war: While suicide bombings blamed on Islamic extremists fighting with the rebels have become common, Thursday's attack was the first time a suicide bomber detonated his explosives inside a mosque. A prolific writer whose sermons were regularly broadcast on TV, the 84-year-old al-Buti was killed while giving a religious lesson to students at the Eman Mosque in the central Mazraa district of Damascus. The most senior religious figure to be killed in Syria's civil war, his assassination was a major blow to Syria's embattled leader, who is fighting mainly Sunni rebels

seeking his ouster. Al-Buti has been a vocal supporter of the regime since the early days of Assad's father and predecessor, the late President Hafez Assad,

Syrian TV showed footage of wounded people and bodies with severed limbs on the mosque's blood-stained floor, and later, corpses covered in white

regime officials, including Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister. Last month, a car bomb that struck in the same area, which houses the headquarters of Syria's ruling Baath party, killed at least 53 people and wounded more than 200 others in one of the deadliest Damascus bombings of the civil war. A small, frail man, al-Buti was well known in the Arab world as a religious scholar and longtime imam at the eighth-century Omayyad Mosque, a Damascus landmark. State TV said he has written 60 books and religious publications. In recent months, Syrian TV has carried al-Buti's sermons from mosques in Damascus live every week. He also has a regular religious TV program. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attack. Among the opposition, there was a mixture of suspicion and shock that an elderly religious figure such as al-Buti would be targeted by a suicide bomber inside a mosque. "I don't know of a single opposition group that could do something like this," said Walid al-Bunni, a spokesman for the Syrian National Coalition opposition group, speaking on Al-Arabiya TV. □



The Eman Mosque is seen destroyed after a suicide bomber blew himself up, killing Sheikh Mohammad Said Ramadan al-Buti, an 84-year-old cleric known to all Syrians as a religious scholar, at the Mazraa district, in Damascus, Syria, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo/SANA)

providing Sunni cover and legitimacy to their rule. Sunnis are the majority sect in Syria while Assad is from the minority Alawite sect — an offshoot of Shiite Islam. "The blood of Sheik al-Buti will be a fire that ignites all the world," said Grand Mufti Ahmad Badreddine Hassoun, the country's top state-appointed Sunni Muslim cleric and an Assad loyalist.

body bags lined up in rows. Sirens wailed through the capital as ambulances rushed to the scene of the explosion, which was sealed off by the military. Among those killed was al-Buti's grandson, the TV said. The bombing was among the most serious security breaches in the capital. An attack in July that targeted a high-level government crisis meeting killed four top

Lawyer:

French Ex-President Sarkozy facing charges

PARIS (AP) — A lawyer says preliminary charges have been filed against former President Nicolas Sarkozy in connection with allegations he illegally took donations from France's richest woman for his 2007 election campaign. Lawyer Antoine Gillot told

French TV i-Tele that Judge Jean-Michel Gentil in the southwestern city of Bordeaux placed Sarkozy under investigation — a step short of formal charges — after hours of questioning Thursday.

Sarkozy in November was

named a key and potentially indictable witness in an investigation involving 90-year-old L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt.

Gillot represents Bettencourt's former butler, who was also questioned Thursday along with Sarkozy. □



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Kurdish rebel leader Ocalan calls for historic truce



Thousands of supporters demonstrate waving various PKK flags and images of jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, in southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

(AP Photo)

MUCAHIT CEYLAN
SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — In a major step toward ending one of the world's longest, bloodiest insurgencies, the Kurds' jailed rebel leader called Thursday for a "new era" of peace that includes an immediate cease-fire and the withdrawal of thousands of his fighters from Turkey. Abdullah Ocalan's rebel group, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, has been waging a nearly 30-year battle against the Turkish government, seeking autonomy and greater rights. The fight has killed tens of

thousands of people and the group is considered a terror organization by Turkey and its Western allies, including the United States. The Turkish government reacted cautiously but Ocalan's announcement at a Kurdish spring festival was met with joy from the hundreds of thousands who gathered to hear it in Diyarbakir, the largest city in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast.

"We have reached the point where the guns must be silenced and where ideas must speak. A new era has started, where politics, not guns, are at the forefront," Ocalan said in

a call from jail relayed by pro-Kurdish legislators in both Kurdish and Turkish.

"A door is opening from the armed struggle toward the democratic struggle," Ocalan said. "This is not an end. This is a new start."

"We have reached the stage where our armed elements need to retreat beyond the border," his message added.

People in the sprawling

crowd sang, danced and waved rebel flags or banners with images of Ocalan.

They appeared cheered at the prospect of an end to the conflict that has dominated the southeast for so long. "Ocalan has paved the way for a historic peace process," Mesut Yegin of Istanbul's Sehir University said. "He has declared in no uncertain terms that the era of an armed struggle is

ending."

"But the total laying down of arms will depend on steps the government will take," Yegin added.

Turkey announced in December that it was talking to Ocalan with the aim of persuading the PKK to disarm. Despite his 14-year incarceration in a prison island off Istanbul, Ocalan still wields great power over his rebel group. □



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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Agency rejects Vieques cancer-Navy link

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A U.S. agency has issued a long-awaited report saying it did not find any proof that decades of military activity on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques had sickened residents who blame the federal government for high rates of cancer, asthma and other illnesses. The report released this week follows four previous assessments and several updates by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that reached similar conclusions. The most recent report angered people in Vieques who vowed on Thursday to push the U.S. to fund additional studies to analyze the impact of previous Navy activity. □

Colombia talks stall without agreement

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia's government and largest guerrilla army have closed another round of peace talks without reaching a deal on agrarian reform, the first of six agenda points for negotiations taking place in Havana. Lead government negotiator Humberto de la Calle says the two sides have concluded the latest round of talks and will now recess as planned. He says negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia will resume April 2 with the hope of swiftly reaching a deal on agrarian issues. De la Calle also said Thursday that the conversations will not include any topics not on the pre-agreed agenda. □

Dominican agents caught in anti-drug op

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The Dominican National Drug Control agency says 35 soldiers and police officers have been arrested in a crackdown on drug smuggling to Europe. Drug control chief Rolando Rosado says four French citizens were also arrested. Authorities say the four were attempting to fly 1,562 pounds of cocaine to Paris on a French-registered private plane from the resort area of Punta Cana when they were arrested. The investigation began after officials in the Netherlands, France, Belgium and other countries reported confiscating large amounts of cocaine from flights from the Dominican Republic. □

Police: Canadians arrested in bullet case

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Two Canadians were among four people arrested in Jamaica on suspicion of illegal possession of ammunition. A police statement this week said patrolmen in the northern tourist town of Ocho Rios stopped a car carrying two Canadians and two Jamaicans. Police say a search of the car turned up a magazine containing three 9 mm rounds. All four suspects were taken into custody. Their identities were being withheld and no further details were released pending further investigations. Calls and an email to the High Commission of Canada in Jamaica were not immediately returned regarding this case. □

PR government supporting gay adoption

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's government is supporting an effort to overturn a ban on gay adoption in the U.S. island territory. Puerto Rico's Supreme Court narrowly voted in February to uphold an island law banning adoptions by same-sex parents. The woman whose adoption request was at the heart of the case asked the court to reconsider that decision. Island Attorney General Margarita Mercado has now filed a motion in support of reconsideration. Mercado said the government of Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla favors eliminating unequal treatment based on gender or sexual orientation. It remains uncertain if the court will revisit its 5-4 ruling. □

Cayman Islands: Ex-premier charged in corruption probe

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press
KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— An ousted former premier of the Cayman Islands was charged Wednesday in a corruption investigation, and his splintered political party pledged to stand behind him as May elections approach. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service announced

month. In December, governing party, opposition and independent lawmakers voted to oust Bush as the islands' premier in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence a week after his arrest on suspicion of theft related to misuse of a government credit card and other allegations. He remained a lawmaker representing West Bay as

was "proud to have Mr. Bush as its party leader." He is the islands' longest serving politician, having first been elected in 1984, and wielded great power within the territory.

"I have done nothing illegal and will defend every one of these charges," Bush said in a statement issued by the party.

During a visit to neighboring Jamaica in December, Bush called Britain-appointed Gov. Duncan Taylor his "enemy" and said the police investigation was orchestrated by "jealous" political foes.

Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, who was named as the islands' premier a day after Bush's ouster, could not be reached for comment. She has led a minority government since the UDP splintered during the debate over Bush. Last month, police said their investigations into Bush were "very active" and involved a number of foreign jurisdictions, including locations in the United States, Europe and Asia. The Cayman Islands is the world's sixth largest financial center and a major haven for mutual funds and private equity. □



McKeeva Bush, ousted former premier of the Cayman Islands.
(Handout Photo)

that McKeeva Bush was charged with five counts of theft, four counts of breach of trust and two counts of misconduct in public office. He was released on bail and is due to appear in the British Caribbean territory's Grand Court next

well as leader of the United Democratic Party after most of his colleagues quit the party and formed a minority government. With parliamentary elections scheduled in less than two months, the United Democratic Party said it

Haiti: Party of Aristide to run in next vote

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's most prominent political party said Thursday it will try again to run candidates in upcoming legislative elections after being banned in the two most recent votes.

Maryse Narcisse, a spokeswoman for the political party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said in an interview on the privately run station Radio Kiskeya that the Lavalas Family party plans to run in the still-unscheduled vote. "We decided to go to the elections with all our strength so that we can give the population the victory that it's been waiting for," Narcisse said, an apparent dig at the administration of President Mi-

chel Martelly, who has described his 2011 election as a "victory for the people."

Officials blocked the party from elections in 2009 and 2010, saying its representative, Aristide, was not present to sign paperwork. The ex-leader had been in exile in South Africa since he was toppled in 2004 in a violent rebellion, his second ouster as president.

Aristide returned to Haiti in 2011 despite opposition from the United States and has kept a low profile since, opting to stay in his compound in the capital. The party is Haiti's most prominent in large part because of its ties to Aristide, a former priest admired by the poor majority but reviled by a small yet powerful elite. It also remains well known because there are

few if any established political parties with the same kind of name recognition in this country of 10 million people.

The upcoming vote seeks to fill 10 seats in the 30-member Senate and scores of seats at the local level.

Haiti was supposed to hold elections in 2011. But authorities haven't been able to agree on the composition of an electoral body that will organize the vote, the opposing sides fearful it may be stacked in the favor of others.

In the absence of the elections, the Martelly government has replaced some 130 elected municipal governments with presidential appointees, according to the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti. □



Two athletes with an incredible goal:

Helping Aruba's disabled children get more out of life!



ORANJESTAD/ ZÜRICH - Two local athletes are practicing hard for the upcoming Ironman challenge in Zürich, Switzerland. Physical trainer Lars Stolk (31) and teacher Mario Nooijen (40) swim, bike and run as often as they can to prepare for the upcoming trial of strength, which allows for 60 qualifying slots for the 2013 Ironman World Championships in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.. 2350 Ath-

letes have qualified to swim the 3.8 kilometer, bike the 180 kilometer and run the marathon of 42.295 kilometer within the set time-limit in Zürich on July, 28.

The winner will finish in about 8 and a half hours; Lars and Mario will be happy with a time of 11 hours. But that is not what this article is about: the two have called their participation in the Iron Man event 'Run for a Charity' with a definite goal in mind.

They want to collect enough money to be able to purchase a special bus so that the disabled children and young adults of the island can be transported to their therapy sessions, to swimming lessons etc., so they, who are trapped

in non- or little-functioning bodies, could get more out of life. Running 10K's with the children in their special wheelchairs was already a big hit – but now they are moving forward to bigger things.

Lars and Mario have joined forces with the Mi Por foundation, which aids parents and challenged children in various ways. Creating awareness is one of the foundation's goals; many people are not aware of the dire circumstances and hardships that exist in families with disabled children. Improving the children's lives is what the effort and connected fundraising motivates these two athletes. Quite a few companies have already pledged their

support, among them main sponsor CMB, PWC, AMC-Unicon, Nagico, Gamma, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa Aruba, Ike Bistro's & Stichting Ike Cohen, Century 21, Bike Center Zeeuws Vlaanderen, Athlete AD and SuperFood.

A newly introduced restaurant voucher project will hopefully also generate quite a bit of money, enough to reach the AWG. 83.000,- needed to buy the bus.

The following restaurants have already joined this fundraising action: Que Pasa, Papillon, CILLO City Lounge, Le Bistro and Taste of Belgium and Amazonia. There is a super sporting event on May 12 coming up, of course also orga-

nized to raise funds..

Should you wish to make a donation to help realize the dream of purchasing a bus for our disabled children, please do so at CMB 601576010 – account name Ironman 2013.

Please make sure that your company name will be on the transfer; the account can only be opened by lawyer Eugene Martis.

In the meantime we are also on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/zurich2013, so we hope you will follow us. And if you wish to contact us, please do so. Thank you so much! Contact: Lars Stolk: Sabana Liber 257; 592-7256 - Mario Nooijen: Sabana Liber 42A; 593-7801; marioaruba@se-tarnet.aw. □



Aruba to unite this Saturday again for "Earth Hour"



- Elmar supporting and sponsoring the event this year again requesting all citizens to switch off non-essential lights from 8:30PM to 9:30PM.

On Saturday March 23, 2013 at 8:30 p.m., hundreds of millions of people in more than 150 countries across every continent will unite in a single moment of celebration and contemplation of the planet by switching off their lights for one designated hour – Earth Hour. By taking part in this global 'lights

out' event they will be acknowledging their commitment to a personal action that benefits the planet in the year ahead. Just as in previous years, Earth Hour Aruba Community Group (EHACG) is planning to participate in Earth Hour 2013 and to make this event even bigger this year.

EHACG was founded in 2011 with the main purpose to encourage individuals, businesses, government and NGO's in Aruba to participate in this global event. EH2011 and EH2012 were considered a huge success and thanks to our efforts, the endorsement of the government, your personal involvement and the actions of hundreds of participants Aruba has been recognized as an official Earth Hour participating country by the WWF and the Earth Hour organizing committee

(based in Singapore).

Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative – in Sydney, Australia – in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement with hundreds of millions of people from more than 6,000 cities and towns across every continent switching off their lights for Earth Hour 2012, creating history as the world's greatest ever environmental action. Some of the world's most famous man-made marvels and natural wonders, including China's Forbidden City, Eiffel Tower, Table Mountain, Great Pyramids of Egypt, Buckingham Palace, Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue, Niagara and Victoria Falls, Empire State Building, Sydney Opera House and many more global icons stood in darkness as a powerful symbol of landmark environmen-



tal action. This year, NV ELMAR has partnered up again with Earth Hour Aruba Community Group and is the official sponsor of the event. ELMAR, as national electricity distribution company, is promoting awareness among the citizens to consume energy in a responsible manner. Furthermore ELMAR is working on different projects to implement renewable energy, with the purpose to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. By turning off all non-essential lighting during Earth Hour 2013, committing to a positive action for the planet and encouraging our citizens to do the same, we will help lead the growing global resolve to realize our role as custodians of the planet. Earth Hour also provides an excellent forum for all citizens, including business, individuals, parents and educators, to hold meaningful discussions about the ways that our community can take action and be part of the solution to our environmental challenges.

We hope the whole Aruban community will join us by turning off the (non-essential) lights at home during Earth Hour and make a commitment to go beyond the hour with a positive ongoing action for the environment.

Also we would like to invite the Aruban commu-

nity to join the official 'lights off' ceremony at Willem III Tower in Oranjestad during Earth Hour on Saturday, March 23rd starting at 08:00 PM. This year for the first time a monument in San Nicolas has also been proclaimed an Earth Hour landmark which has also been recognized by Earth Hour Global Network. This landmark is the recently inaugurated Water Tower, which is an impressive sight at night. For Earth Hour (this Saturday) this landmark will go dark for an hour.

A commitment to Earth Hour enables all of us here in Aruba to not only express our concern about the health of our local environment, but to let all the people of the world know that we stand with them in finding solutions to our environmental challenges and celebrating the one thing we all have in common – the planet.

Please join our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/arubaearthhour> to stay informed on local Earth Hour events.

We also encourage all participants to take as much pictures as possible during Earth Hour and to submit these to earthhouraruba@gmail.com or to Erasmus.bpas@gmail.com.

Also visit www.earthhour.org for more information on EH events around the globe. □

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Bugaloe welcomes Bostonians as Guests of the Week!

PALM BEACH - This week Bugaloe is welcoming loyal Bostonian guests Gary and Lisa Tashjian, who have been coming to Aruba for 20 years! For all these years they have always stayed at the Radisson Hotel, just to make sure they are close to Bugaloe. The

staff, that over the years have become real friends, is what they like best about Bugaloe. Funny situations have occurred when people ask them if they are locals all the time, cause they seem to know everybody! Their favorite menu item is the Grouper Wrap,



that will easily go down with some Johnny Walker Black and Heineken Beer. The nicest memory they have of Bugaloe is when after a day of drinking

and giving rounds to their friends, they did not have the right creditcard to pay the bill, and of course, being so close to Bugaloe, they were allowed to pay

the next day! The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Gary and Lisa for being such loyal guests and friends, and hope to see them more often! □

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Tonight DJ Beatz & 2SUM will heat up Fermin's Bar BQ!

ORANJESTAD – Tonight, one more time DJ Beatz & 2SUM Band will flip Fermin's Bar BQ with good music, nice ambience and champ animation. Starting at 7:00PM DJ Beatz will bring good music to everyone who comes in early for the Happy Hour and after 9pm, 2SUM Band will take over with a super varied repertoire for every taste and age. Without forgetting the nice bartenders of Fermin's, together with the owner Michael, are more than ready to serve with a smile. Don't forget about the usual Fermin's Bar BQ, which is delicious. So put it in your schedule and see you at Fermin's! □



Now & Then Band will entertain:

Fung Shung Restaurant tonight with Happy Hour



ORANJESTAD – Tonight Fung Shung Restaurant will have it's usual Happy Hour, starting from 6pm till 7pm, with specials on everything. After 9pm Now & Then Band will entertain everyone with nice music till the wee hours in the morning. Not only is Fung Shung is known for a good time, but also for its awesome local and Chinese Food. So, your first stop will be at Boegoeroei 69. Meet Sohan, who will give you first class service. We'll meet at Fung Shung! □





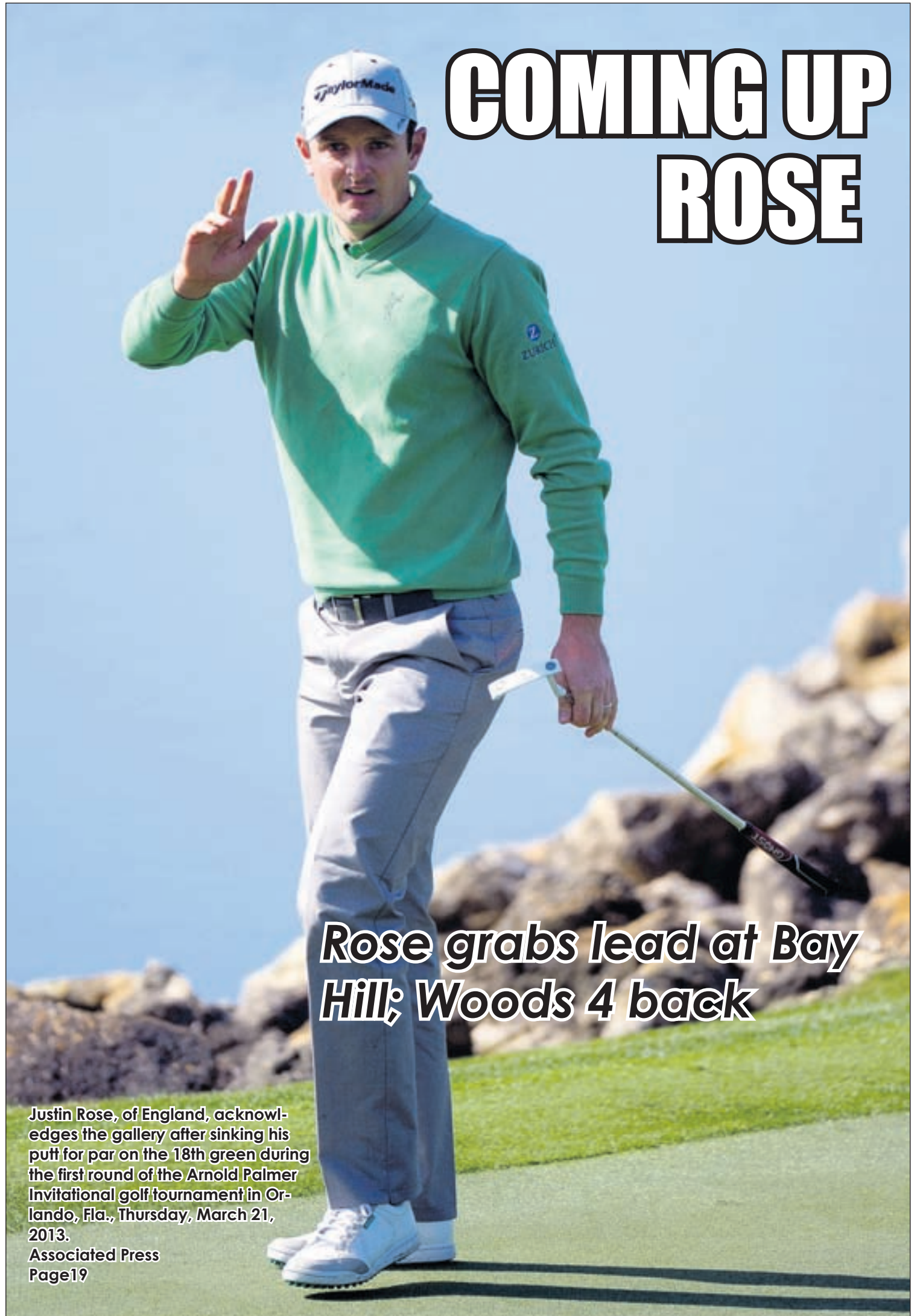
In this Monday, Nov. 19, 2012 photo, Chicago Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher (54) runs the field against the San Francisco 49ers during the second half of an NFL football game in San Francisco. Associated Press

Bears partways with veteran LB Brian Urlacher

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) - Brian Urlacher wanted to re-sign with the Chicago Bears. Instead, they're parting ways with the veteran linebacker after 13 years. General manager Phil Emery said Wednesday that the team couldn't agree on a contract with Urlacher, for years the heart and face of the franchise. He is now a free agent after being slowed by a knee problem and then missing the last four games of the season with a hamstring injury. "We were unable to reach an agreement with Brian and both sides have decided to move forward," Emery said in a statement. "Brian has been an elite player in our league for over a decade. He showed great leadership and helped develop a winning culture over his time with the Bears. We appreciate all he has given our team, on and off the field."

Continued on page 18



COMING UP ROSE

Rose grabs lead at Bay Hill; Woods 4 back

Justin Rose, of England, acknowledges the gallery after sinking his putt for par on the 18th green during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, March 21, 2013. Associated Press Page 19



shows Pietro Mennea of Italy running the 200-meters dash event at the World University Games in Mexico City, where he set a new world record with a time of 19.72 seconds. Associated Press

Former 200m record holder Mennea dies

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Pietro Mennea, an Olympic sprint champion from Italy who held the world record in the 200 meters for 17 years, died Thursday. He was 60. The Italian Olympic Committee said Mennea died in a Rome clinic. No cause of death was given.

Mennea won gold in the 200 and bronze in the 4x400 relay at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, plus a bronze in the 200 at the 1972 Munich Games.

Mennea set the 200 world record of 19.72 seconds on Sept. 12, 1979, at the World University Games at high altitude in Mexico City. He broke Tommie Smith's record of 19.83, set on the same track at the 1968 Olympics.

Mennea's record stood until Michael Johnson ran 19.66 on June 23, 1996, at the U.S. Olympic trials. Johnson lowered the mark to 19.32 at the Atlanta Olympics later that year.

"I never thought for a minute it would last that long," Mennea said in a 1996 interview with The Associated Press. "I didn't even think at the time I had run that fast."

Usain Bolt holds the current 200 record of 19.19, set at the 2009 world championships in Berlin.

Mennea also won four golds at European championships — three outdoor and one indoor — plus a silver and a bronze at world championships. □

Serena Williams advances at Key Biscayne



Serena Williams, of the United States, leans back after overrunning the ball on shot from Flavia Pennetta, of Italy, during the Sony Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 21, 2013, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida (AP)

— Playing again at No. 1, Serena Williams routed Flavia Pennetta of Italy 6-1, 6-1 on Thursday in the second round of the Sony Open.

Williams is playing her first tournament since she regained the No. 1 ranking at the Qatar Open. Williams lost the Doha final to Victoria Azarenka, but overtook her for the top ranking the week of Feb. 11.

Williams trailed 40-0 in the first and fifth games in the first set, but went on to hold serve both times. In the first game, she uncharacteristically double-faulted on the first and third points.

"I don't think it was too much rust," Williams said. "I

think I missed a few shots, but only because I was off footwork-wise. It's always just good to win a match and stay in the tournament and keep going."

Williams is trying to break the tournament record of five titles she shares with Steffi Graf.

"That would be really cool," Williams said. "I have a lot of matches to play. If I can just stay relaxed, I really feel like I can do it, but I'm sometimes my own worst enemy."

Sloane Stephens rallied to beat Olga Govortsova of Belarus 0-6, 6-4, 6-4. Stephens is ranked 16th, the highest-ranked American after Williams.

Stephens won only four points in her three service

games and 10 points overall in the opening set.

"I wasn't playing that great," Stephens said. "I was asleep out there. I definitely just needed to wake up and start playing. A lot just battling and just hanging in there."

Stephens will play the winner of the match between 32-year-old Venus Williams and 42-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan.

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, the defending champion who is seeded fourth, defeated Taiwan's Su-Wei Hsieh 6-3, 6-2 in the second round.

"Just very happy to have a quick match," Radwanska said. "The first match is always a little bit tough and tricky." □

Associated Press

Battery, stalk charges for ex-tennis star Capriati

NORTH PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — Former tennis star Jennifer Capriati has been charged after police said she punched her ex-boyfriend on Valentine's Day while he was working out at a gym.

Palm Beach County court records show Capriati was charged by prosecutors

Wednesday.

She has been issued a summons to appear before a judge April 17 on stalking and battery charges, though she has not been arrested. No attorney for Capriati was listed.

North Palm Beach police say Ivan Brannan was working out when the 36-year-old Capriati approached

him and yelled at him. Brannan told police that he tried to get away by walking to the men's locker room, but Capriati blocked his path and punched him in the chest.

Brannan told police he and Capriati broke up in 2012 and that she has harassed and stalked him since then. □

Urlacher

Continued from Page 17

Brian will always be welcome as a member of the Bears." The 34-year-old Urlacher, an eight-time Pro Bowl player, started 180 games from 2000 through 2012, recording a team-record 1,779 tackles. The ninth overall selection in the 2000 draft has 41.5 sacks, 22 interceptions, 16 fumble recoveries and 11 forced fumbles. He was the AP's defensive player of the year in 2005 and helped lead the 2006 team to the Super Bowl. "Over the last 13 years Brian Urlacher has been an outstanding player, teammate, leader and face of our franchise," chairman George McCaskey said. "As Bears fans, we have been lucky to have such a humble superstar represent our city. He embodies the same characteristics displayed by the Bears all-time greats who played before him and he will eventually join many of them in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. We thank Brian for all he has given our team and our city. He will always be a part of the Bears family. We wish him the very best." Urlacher told the team's flagship radio station WBBM-AM in Chicago that he was not shocked that it came to this. "I am definitely not surprised. I kind of had this feeling this whole offseason with the way the whole thing was being handled," Urlacher said. "We made an offer, the Bears asked us to make an offer early, so we did. Never heard back from them. They made an offer, we responded to their offer and it was more like an ultimatum is what it was. It was, Sign this contract or we are going to move on. And I didn't feel like that was the direction I wanted to go." The parting with Urlacher is just the latest change in what's been a busy offseason for Chicago. The Bears fired coach Lovie Smith after a second straight late collapse left them out of the playoffs for the fifth time in six years, although they did finish with 10 wins. □

Rose takes lead with 65 at Bay Hill; Woods 4 back

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)

— Justin Rose started out as another player in Tiger Woods' group Thursday at Bay Hill. He wound up in the lead. Rose put on a show with the putter and ran off four straight birdies late in his round for a 7-under 65, giving him a two-shot lead after the opening round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Woods had two sloppy bogeys from greenside bunkers and didn't hit it as well as he did when he won Doral two weeks ago. But he made enough key par saves and manhandled the par 5s to scratch out a 69, a reasonable start as he tries to win Bay Hill for the eighth time and return to No. 1 in the world.

It was only the sixth time in 31 rounds at Bay Hill that Rose broke 70.

"If you had said I would shoot a 65 on the range this morning, I would have probably said, 'How many holes have I played?' And that didn't change much," Rose said. "The first five, six holes out there were a grind."

John Huh had a chance to catch him late in the afternoon, but needing a birdie on the final hole, he found a fairway bunker on No. 9 and took bogey for a 67. John Rollins and Brad Fritsch were at 68.

Rose and Woods played in the morning, the tougher side of the draw because

of chilly temperatures and a strong breeze. The rough was thick without being terribly high. The hole locations were in spots Woods had not seen very often. The scores were reflective of a challenging morning until Rose and Woods began to pick up the pace on the par-5 16th.

Both made eagle from inside 15 feet — Woods hit a 9-iron for a second shot on a hole that was playing downwind — but that's where their fortunes changed. Woods came up short in a bunker, hit a poor shot and took bogey on the 17th. Rose holed a 20-foot birdie putt.

On the front nine, both made three straight birdies starting on the par-5 fourth. Rose doubled his lead over Woods on the par-3 seventh with a 12-foot birdie putt, and Woods came up short in the bunker and failed to save par.

Also in the group at 69 with Woods were Ryo Ishikawa of Japan, Nick Watney, Sean O'Hair and Bill Haas, who bogeyed his last two holes.

Woods played the par 5s in 5 under, bringing his career total at Bay Hill to 118-under par.

British Open champion Ernie Els played with Rose and Woods and disappeared quickly. The Big Easy kept pulling his tee shots and getting into trouble, dropping five shots in the opening five holes. He rallied with a 4-iron to 2 feet



Justin Rose, of England, hits a shot from the 11th tee during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Thursday, March 21, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

for birdie on the 18th, and a 9-iron to about the same tap-in range on his final hole at No. 9 to salvage a 75.

Others weren't so fortunate. U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson and two-time major champion Angel Cabrera each had 80. Masters champion Bubba Watson birdied three of his last four holes for a 74.

For Rose, it was all about the putter — and he didn't even need any help from Steve Stricker, who gave Woods a key putting tip at Doral.

Rose began to work hard on his putting after the U.S. Open last summer, and he's had some decent

rounds. At Medinah last September, he knocked in a 45-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole against Phil Mickelson, in effect the difference in Europe winning the cup.

"I dedicated myself at making a few changes and getting better at that part of the game," Rose said. "I've had some good days, no doubt. And today was probably the first real hot day I've had with the blade in a long, long time. We all know it's about consistency and that's what I'm still working towards."

"It's just fun to know that I obviously can do it, and I enjoy a lot of confidence from that."

For all his birdies, it was crucial for Rose not to drop any shots after an early bogey on the 11th, and he did that with par saves on the 14th and 15th.

Just as key was the 18th, when he played short of the water for his second shot from the rough, and then made a 10-footer for par.

Woods was tied for the lead briefly after his eagle on the 16th, only to make bogey from the bunker on the 17th and another bogey on the 18th when he hit a good pitch from short of the green to 6 feet and missed the putt.

"Days happen like this," Woods said. □

SPEEDSKATING

Yuskov, Wust win at worlds

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Denis Yuskov won the men's 1,500-meter title Thursday for Russia's first gold medal at the speedskating world championships since 1996.

In the women's race, 2006 Turin Olympics champion Ireen Wust of the Netherlands won her second worlds gold in the 3,000.

Yuskov finished in 1 minute, 46.32 seconds to edge out Olympic 1,000 champion Shani Davis of the United

States by 0.51 and compatriot Ivan Skobrev by 0.65 at the Sochi Olympics venue. Davis, three-time world champion at the distance, led by almost a second ahead with one lap left but Yuskov clocked the fastest time of 28.2 seconds for the last 400 meters to clinch victory.

"It was my best run this season," Yuskov said. "Some five minutes before the heat, I decided that I would

make a quick start, and it helped me eventually."

Wust timed 4:02.43 to claim her seventh worlds gold. Defending champion Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic was 2.37 seconds behind, with five-time Olympic winner Claudia Pechstein of Germany 5.32 back to claim her 38th podium finish at the worlds.

The worlds at Adler Arena continues Friday with the women's 1,500 and men's 1,000 and 5,000. □



Winner Ireen Wust of the Netherlands skates during the women's 3000 meter race, during the ISU World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships 2013 in Adler-Arena in Sochi, Russia, Thursday, March 21, 2013.

Associated Press

Heat run streak to 24 with huge comeback vs. Cavs

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James scored 25 points as the Miami Heat overcame a 27-point deficit to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 98-95 for their 24th straight victory, extending the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

NBA Capsules Miami is within nine games of matching the record of 33 consecutive wins held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

James and his teammates have insisted the record isn't one of their goals, and for more than 30 minutes the defending champions seemed disinterested and on the verge of losing Wednesday for the first time since Feb. 1. Miami trailed 67-40 with 7:44 left in the third quarter.

But behind the irrepressible James, who added 12 rebounds and 10 assists, the Heat inched closer to history by matching the biggest comeback in the NBA this season.

James had 14 points in the fourth as Miami completed its second straight comeback. The Heat rallied from 17 down — 13 in the fourth quarter — to beat Boston 105-103 Monday night and snap a tie with the 2007-08 Houston Rockets for the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

Although the Cavs were missing All-Star guard Kyrie Irving, Dion Waiters and Anderson Varejao — their top three scorers — they pushed Miami to the limit. It wasn't until James, playing his fourth game back in Cleveland since leaving as a free agent in 2010, made two free throws with 4.7 seconds left that Miami could relax a little. The Cavs had one last chance to tie it, but C.J. Miles was long with a 3-pointer in the final second, letting Miami off the hook.

GRIZZLIES 90, THUNDER 89, OT

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Marc Gasol tipped in Zach Randolph's miss with less than a second left in overtime, lifting the Grizzlies to the win.

In a game that had all the intensity of a playoff

matchup, Jerryd Bayless connected from the top of the key for Memphis with 3.7 seconds left in regulation to tie it at 83. Bayless had 10 points in the fourth quarter.

After Gasol's tip over Kevin Durant put the Grizzlies ahead, Russell Westbrook's desperation shot from past halfcourt was off the mark and Memphis walked away with its 16th victory in 19 games.

Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 24 points and Bayless had 20.

Durant led the Thunder with 32 points, including 15 in the third quarter.

KNICKS 106, MAGIC 94

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points to lead New York over Orlando after missing the previous three games with a knee injury.

J.R. Smith had 22 points for New York, still short-handed in the frontcourt but looking much better with Anthony back. The NBA's second-leading scorer hadn't played since leaving the Knicks' road trip last week to have fluid drained from the back of his right knee. He said he felt much better after the morning shootaround and moved much better, shooting 7 of 14 and grabbing eight rebounds. The Knicks shot 53 percent and won their second straight after dropping the first four games of their five-game trip. All-Star center Tyson Chandler is expected to miss about a week with a bulging disk, and reserve forwards Amare Stoudemire, Rasheed Wallace and Kurt Thomas all could miss the rest of the regular season. But New York had no trouble despite using a small lineup that featured 6-foot-9 Kenyon Martin as the center.

Tobias Harris and Andrew Nicholson each scored 14 points for the Magic in their fifth straight loss. They played without center Nikola Vucevic because of an illness in the second night of a difficult back-to-back, after losing by 22 at Indiana on Tuesday.

New York beat Orlando for the sixth straight time and



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers' Daniel Gibson (1) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 20, 2013, in Cleveland. James scored a team-high 25 points in Miami's 98-95 win.

Associated Press

swept the season series for the first time since 1997-98.

HAWKS 98, BUCKS 90

ATLANTA (AP) — Jeff Teague scored 27 points and Al Horford had 26, taking control after a sluggish first quarter to lead Atlanta past Milwaukee.

Teague scored 11 points in the second quarter and a dozen more in the third as the Hawks pushed out to a 77-59 lead.

Horford scored 10 points in the final period and finished with 15 rebounds, stepping up to help the Hawks hold off a Milwaukee comeback.

Led by Brandon Jennings with 21 points, the Bucks closed to 94-90. But Jennings missed a free throw that could have made it a one-possession game, then came up short on a tough jumper with Teague in his face. Josh Smith clinched it by making two free throws with 27.9 seconds left.

Smith also had a double-double, scoring just 12 points on 5-of-14 shooting but helping out with a season-high 16 rebounds. Devin Harris added 15 points.

BOBCATS 107, RAPTORS 101

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Byron Mullens scored 25 points, Gerald Henderson had another solid all-around game and Charlotte beat Toronto to win consecutive games for the first time since mid-November.

Mullens scored 12 points in the fourth quarter. The reserve made his final eight free throws, including four with less than 13 seconds to go as Charlotte won its third straight at home.

Henderson scored 21 points on 8-of-14 shooting and added seven rebounds and five assists, continuing the best stretch of his four-year NBA career. He has scored at least 20 points in five of the last seven games.

Rudy Gay had 25 points and DeMar DeRozan added 19 points for the Raptors, who have lost seven of their last eight in Charlotte and fell to 9-25 on the road.

Ben Gordon finished with 16 points for the Bobcats and Josh McRoberts had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

NETS 113, MAVERICKS 96

DALLAS (AP) — Brook Lopez led Brooklyn with 38 points and Deron Williams had 31 in his first visit to Dallas since spurning his hometown team in free agency.

Williams scored 26 in the second half, repeatedly hitting shots and occasionally assisting on a basket by Lopez to prevent a Dallas rally in the fourth quarter.

Williams also hit a fade-away jumper after a blocked shot by Lopez, running to his bench with a big smile after Dallas called timeout with the Nets up 97-88 midway through the fourth. The Mavericks

didn't get closer than six after that.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 16 points and had a team-high six rebounds, compared to 22 boards for Reggie Evans of the Nets, who outrebounded the Mavericks 45-34.

HORNETS 87, CELTICS 86

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis beat Kevin Garnett and Jeff Green to a last-second tip-in, helping the Hornets end a four-game skid.

Davis, who missed the morning shootaround with an illness, finished with nine points and eight rebounds. Ryan Anderson scored 21 points and Eric Gordon had 18 for the Hornets.

Paul Pierce scored 11 of his 28 points in the last six minutes to nearly lead Boston back from a nine-point deficit, but missed a jumper with 16 seconds left that could have put the Celtics up by three.

Garnett, returning from a two-game absence caused by a left thigh injury and the flu, had 20 points — not quite enough to prevent a second straight loss.

CLIPPERS 101, 76ERS 72

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Paul scored 19 points as the Clippers bounced back on the second night of back-to-back games.

Paul also had nine assists and six rebounds while Blake Griffin had a relatively quiet showing with seven points, nine rebounds and six assists. The Clippers were without Chauncey Billups and Eric Bledsoe, who were sidelined by injuries.

Los Angeles improved to 27-8 at home after losing four of its previous seven, including a night earlier at Sacramento.

Spencer Hawes had 16 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the 76ers, who have dropped 14 in a row on the road, where they are 6-24 this season. Thaddeus Young added 13 points and Evan Turner finished with 12.

SPURS 104, WARRIORS 93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan had 25 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four blocks, leading San Antonio to the win. □

Ducks beat Chicago 4-2 in clash of top 2 teams



Dallas Stars right wing Erik Cole (72) attacks Colorado Avalanche goalie Semyon Varlamov (1), of Russia, who makes the save, during the second period of an NHL hockey game on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, in Denver.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — **ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)**

— Ryan Getzlaf set up Bobby Ryan's tying goal and Teemu Selanne's tie-breaker 1:04 apart late in the third period as the Anaheim Ducks rallied for a 4-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night in a meeting of the NHL's top two teams.

Jonas Hiller stopped 22 shots, and Peter Holland and Sheldon Souray scored as the Ducks extended their franchise-record home winning streak to 13 games in dramatic fashion.

Anaheim (22-3-4) pulled within three points of Chicago atop the overall NHL standings by dealing the Blackhawks just their third regulation loss of the season. Nick Leddy scored a power-play goal and captain Jonathan Toews scored an early short-handed goal for the Blackhawks (24-3-3), who lost in regulation after entering the third period with a lead for the first time in 19 games this season.

The largest crowd in Honda Center history was packed with boisterous fans of both teams for a prominent game in this lockout-shortened year. Two clubs with a points percentage

above .800 had never met this late in an NHL season, and they lived up to their pedigrees in a fast-paced game showcasing their skill and tenacity.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, LIGHTNING 2

TORONTO (AP) — Nazem Kadri had three assists and Joffrey Lupul added a goal and an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs ended a five-game winless skid with a victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Dion Phaneuf, Tyler Bozak and Nikolai Kulemin also scored for Toronto. Kadri's three points tied a career high, and he had a chance at a fourth point but was hauled down in front of the goal by Teddy Purcell midway through the third period.

Rookies Radko Gudas and Cory Conacher scored for Tampa Bay in the third, spoiling James Reimer's shutout attempt.

WILD 4, RED WINGS 2

DETROIT (AP) — Devin Setoguchi had two goals, Niklas Backstrom made 36 saves and the streaking Minnesota Wild beat the Detroit Red Wings.

Kyle Brodziak, Mikko Koivu also scored for Minnesota, which won its fourth straight. Pierre-Marc Bouchard had two assists.

Gustav Nyquist and Drew Miller scored for Detroit.

Minnesota led 1-0 after the first period despite being outshot 17-5. Setoguchi opened the scoring 2:04 into the game when he swept in a shot from the bottom of the right circle for his 10th goal. Setoguchi's second goal of the game came on the power play with 2:45 left in the second period, putting in a rebound to give Minnesota a 4-1 lead.

SHARKS 4, OILERS 3, SO EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

— Logan Couture scored twice in regulation and added a shootout goal, and Dan Boyle netted the tiebreaker winner in the San Jose Sharks' victory over the Edmonton Oilers. After Couture pulled the Sharks within a goal on a power play at 6:50 of the third, Tommy Wingels tied it at 9:15. San Jose snapped a two-game losing streak with its second victory in eight games.

Sam Gagner, Shawn Horcoff and Ryan Jones scored for Edmonton. The Oilers have earned eight points in their last five games.

AVALANCHE 4, STARS 3

DENVER (AP) — Chuck Kobasew's goal with 3:29 left in the third period helped lift the Colorado Avalanche

past the Dallas Stars. Mark Olver and Ryan O'Reilly each had a goal and an assist, and Gabriel Landeskog also had a goal for the Avalanche, who stopped a four-game skid. The Avalanche got the winner when Matt Hunwick's shot from the boards hit Dallas defenseman Stephane Robidas in the face and dropped to the ice. Kobasew quickly knocked

it in with a backhand to stop Colorado's four-game skid.

Jaromir Jagr scored a goal and had two assists, and Trevor Daley and Ray Whitney also scored for the Stars.

In other NHL games it was San Jose 4, Edmonton 3, SO; Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 2; Minnesota 4, Detroit 2; Colorado 4, Dallas 3; and Anaheim 4, Chicago 2. □

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MARCH 21 - 27

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With Spanish Subtitles **Spanish Version**

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NEW THIS WEEK

ON TWO SCREENS

Mia Wasikowska Nicole Kidman

STOKER **R**

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
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James Franco Mila Kunis

OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL **PG**

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Nicholas Hoult Ewan McGregor

JACK THE GIANT SLAYER **PG-13**

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Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00

Miguel Céspedes Raymond Pozo

Spanish **NR**

Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
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Sat 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

Bruce Willis Jai Courtney

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD **R**

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35
Fri 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50
Sat 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50
Sun & Hol 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35

STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 28

GI JOE RETALIATION **PG-13**

Surgery, therapy both prove good for knee repair

M. MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - You might not want to rush into knee surgery. Physical therapy can be just as good for a common injury and at far less cost and risk, the most rigorous study to compare these treatments concludes.

Therapy didn't always help and some people wound up having surgery for the problem, called a torn meniscus. But those who stuck with therapy had improved as much six months and one year later as those who were given arthroscopic surgery right away, researchers found.

"Both are very good choices. It would be quite reasonable to try physical therapy first because the chances are quite good that you'll do quite well," said one study leader, Dr. Jeffrey Katz, a joint specialist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

He was to discuss the study Tuesday at an American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons conference in Chicago. Results were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

A meniscus is one of the crescent-shaped cartilage discs that cushion the knee. About one-third of people over 50 have a tear in one, and arthritis makes



Physical therapy can be just as good for a common knee injury and at far less cost and risk, the most rigorous study to compare these treatments concludes. (Handout Photo)

toms but it can be painful. When that happens, it's tough to tell if the pain is from the tear or the arthritis — or whether surgery is needed or will help. Nearly half a million knee surgeries for a torn meniscus are done each year in the U.S. The new federally funded study compared surgery with a less drastic option. Researchers at seven major universities and orthopedic surgery centers around the U.S. assigned 351 people with arthritis and meniscus tears to get either surgery or physical therapy. The therapy was nine sessions on average plus exercises to do at home, which experts say is key to success. After six months, both groups had similar rates of functional improvement. Pain scores also were similar. Thirty percent of patients assigned to physical therapy wound up having surgery before the six months was up, often because they felt therapy wasn't helping them. Yet they ended up the same as those who got surgery right away, as well as the rest of the physical therapy group who stuck with it and avoided having an operation.

"There are patients who would like to get better in a 'fix me' approach" and surgery may be best for them, said Elena Losina, another study leader from Brigham and Women's Hospital. However, an Australian preventive medicine expert contends that the study's results should change practice. Therapy "is a reasonable first strategy, with surgery reserved for the minority who don't have improvement," Rachelle Buchbinder of Monash University in Melbourne wrote in a commentary in the medical journal. As it is now, "millions of people are being exposed to potential risks associated with a treatment that may or may not offer specific benefit, and the costs are substantial," she wrote. Surgery costs about \$5,000, compared with \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a typical course of physical therapy, Katz said. One study participant — Bob O'Keefe, 68, of suburban Boston — was glad to avoid surgery for his meniscus injury three years ago. "I felt better within two weeks" on physical therapy, he said. "My knee is virtually normal today" and he still does the recommended exercises several times a week. Robert Dvorkin had both treatments for injuries on each knee several years apart. Dvorkin, 56, director of operations at the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City, had surgery followed by physical therapy for a tear in his right knee and said it was months before he felt no pain. Then several years ago he hurt his left knee while exercising. "I had been doing some stretching and doing some push-ups and I just felt it go 'pop.'" he recalls. "I was limping, it was extremely painful."

An imaging test showed a less severe tear and a different surgeon recommended physical therapy. Dvorkin said it worked like a charm — he avoided surgery and recovered faster than from his first injury. □

Health officials: 1 in 50 school kids have autism

MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A government survey of parents says 1 in 50 U.S. schoolchildren has autism, surpassing another federal estimate for the disorder.

Health officials say the new number doesn't mean autism is occurring more often. But it does suggest that doctors are diagnosing autism more frequently, especially in children with milder problems.

The earlier government estimate of 1 in 88 comes from a study that many consider more rigorous. It looks at medical and school records instead of relying on parents.

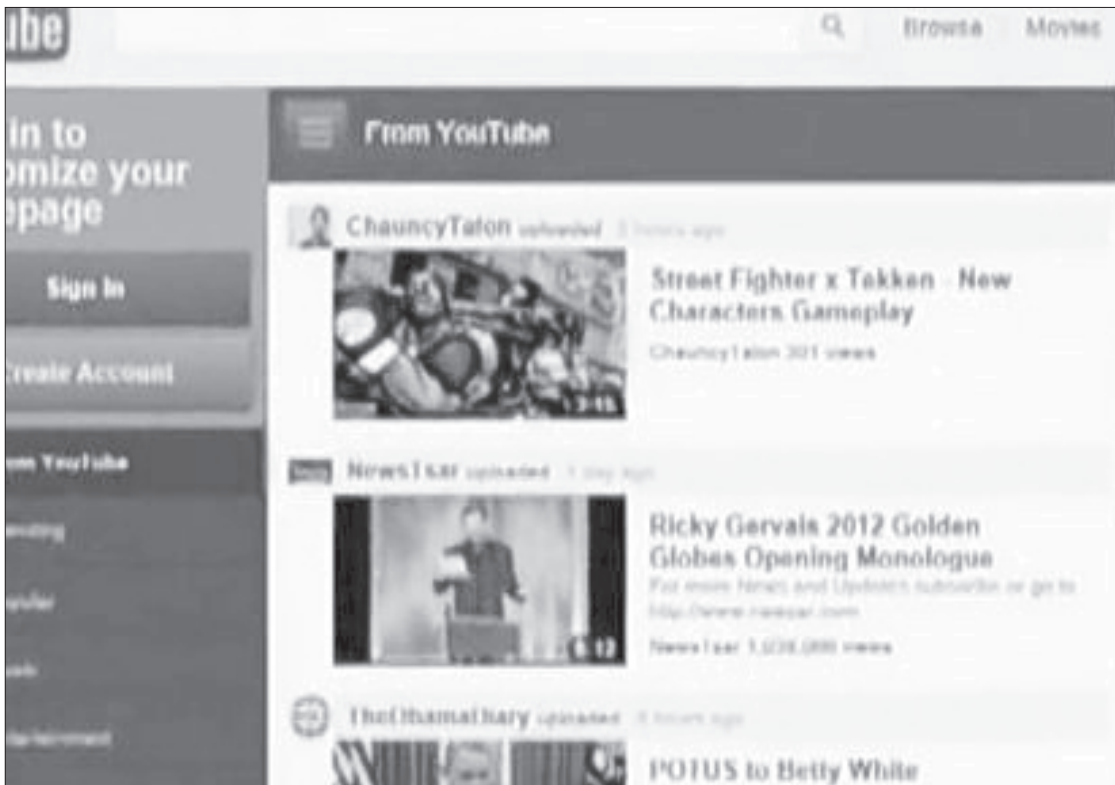
For decades, autism meant kids with severe language, intellectual and social impairments and unusual, repetitious behaviors. But

the definition has gradually expanded and now includes milder, related conditions. The new estimate released Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would mean at least 1 million children have autism. The number is important — government officials look at how common each illness or disorder is when weighing how to spend limited public health funds. It's also controversial. The new statistic comes from a national phone survey of more than 95,000 parents in 2011 and 2012. Less than a quarter of the parents contacted agreed to answer questions, and it's likely that those with autistic kids were more interested than other parents in participating in a survey on children's health, CDC officials said.

Still, CDC officials believe the survey provides a valid snapshot of how many families are affected by autism, said Stephen Blumberg, the CDC report's lead author. The study that came up with the 1-in-88 estimate had its own limitations. It focused on 14 states, only on children 8 years old, and the data came from 2008. Updated figures based on medical and school records are expected next year. "We've been underestimating" how common autism is, said Michael Rosanoff of Autism Speaks, an advocacy group. He believes the figure is at least 1 in 50. There are no blood or biologic tests for autism, so diagnosis is not an exact science. It's identified by

making judgments about a child's behavior. Doctors have been looking for autism at younger and younger ages, and experts have tended to believe most diagnoses are made in children by age 8. However, the new study found significant proportions of children were diagnosed at older ages. Dr. Roula Choueiri, a neurodevelopmental pediatrician at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, said she's seen that happening at her clinic. Those kids "tend to be the mild ones, who may have had some speech delays, some social difficulties," she wrote in an email. But they have more problems as school becomes more demanding and social situations grow more complex, she added. □

YouTube says 1 billion people visit per month



RYAN NAKASHIMA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — YouTube says more than 1 billion people are now

visiting its online video site each month to watch everything from clips of cute kittens to scenes of social unrest around the world.

The milestone announced Wednesday marks another step in YouTube's evolution from a quirky startup launched in 2005 to one of

the most influential forces in today's media landscape.

YouTube crossed the 1 billion threshold five months after Facebook Inc. said its online social network had reached that figure.

The vast audience has given YouTube's owner, Google Inc., another lucrative channel for selling online ads beyond its dominant Internet search engine.

Google bought YouTube for \$1.76 billion in 2006 when the video site had an estimated 50 million users worldwide.

Since late 2011, YouTube has refocused its site to prioritize watching along distinct channels of its creators. Such channels were seen as better allowing advertisers to focus on certain genres of content like beauty or music.

In 2012, it seeded 96 channels with around \$100 million in funding to help them accelerate that growth, often partnering with big-name Hollywood produc-

ers and directors that had made it big in movies or TV but not on the Internet, including "CSI" creator Anthony Zuiker. Later, YouTube vowed to spend another \$200 million marketing the channels to boost viewers.

But Wednesday's event focused largely on those who had succeeded on YouTube before the channel-funding strategy was in place.

Robert Kyncl, vice president and global head of content partnerships, acknowledged to reporters that the strategy had not worked as well as hoped.

When asked if the investment had paid off, Kyncl said, "Every year, we reserve the right to get smarter." He said more of such investment in the future would go to channels that had proven they can build an audience on their own. "What we're looking for is the acceleration of those who are figuring out how to retail their content," he said. □

HP develops glasses-free 3-D for mobile devices

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Researchers at Hewlett-Packard Co. have developed a way to put glasses-free 3-D video on mobile devices with a viewing angle so wide that viewers can see an object more fully just by tilting the screen.

Glasses-free 3-D is not unique. Nintendo Co. Ltd.'s 3DS handheld allows video game play in 3-D without glasses, but it requires players to look straight into the screen with their noses centered.

HP's researchers have found a way to make images viewable in 3-D from angles up to 45 degrees from center in any direction — up, down, side-to-side

or diagonally. That means viewers can see a person's face with one ear blocked from view, but reveal the ear by swiveling the screen. The company's findings will be published in the scientific journal, Nature, on Thursday. The scientists used nanotechnology to etch multiple circles with tiny grooves into a glass layer of the display.

The grooves bend light in a way that allows for 64 different points of view. By moving the screen, people will perceive two of those points of view at any one time, one with their left eye and one with their right. As a result, the image will appear in 3-D.

David Fattal, the lead author of the paper, said the effect is "much like you'd see in the movie 'Star Wars' with the hologram of Princess Leia."

He acknowledged the effect wouldn't be identical to a hologram, however, since the images won't pop as far out of the screen as Leia's projection did in the movie.

The technology isn't exactly coming to a movie theater near you any time soon. While moving images can be created using computer animation, any live video capture would require an array of 64 cameras all pointed at an object, Fattal said. □

U.S. department launches car safety app

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department is launching a free app for iPhones and iPods that gives real-time vehicle safety information.

Consumers can use the "SaferCar" app to look for

crash test ratings for vehicles by make and model. They can also use the app to file a vehicle safety complaint, find recall information, subscribe to recall notices and find the nearest car seat in-

stallation station.

Vehicle safety information is also available on SaferCar.gov, run by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agency is developing a version of the app for Android devices. □

An advertisement for 'NEW IMAGE Beauty-Spa & Health Center'. At the top, a silhouette of a woman is shown in a yoga-like pose with the text 'Keep body, mind and soul in balance!'. Below this, the center's name 'NEW IMAGE Beauty-Spa & Health Center' is prominently displayed. A descriptive paragraph follows: 'Invites you to enter a space, where harmony and relaxation is combined with good taste, details and personalized attention. NEW IMAGE is the only center on the island with full services... from top to toe!'. The bottom half of the ad features a photograph of a woman and a man in a romantic embrace. Overlaid on this image is a circular badge that says 'Free Pick up & Drop off Service' and a large '2x1 BUY ONE GET ONE FREE' offer. At the very bottom, it states 'EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE & QUALITY AT LOCAL PRICES!', provides the phone number '(297) 582.2288 / 593.9630', the address 'Caya Punta Brabo 5', and the website 'www.newimagearuba.com'.

Measure of U.S. economy's health rises in February

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — A

measure of the U.S. economy's health over the next six months increased in February from January, a sign that growth could be improving.

The Conference Board said Thursday that its index of leading indicators rose 0.5 percent in February to 94.8. That followed an equal gain in January, which was revised higher. The gauge is designed to anticipate economic conditions three to six months out.

The increase was also more broad-based, with eight of its 10 components rising. That compared with only five in January and six in December.

A gain in housing permits, a longer manufacturing work week and rising stock prices were among the elements that drove the index higher. Lower orders for large manufactured goods and lower consumer outlook for business conditions limited the gain.

The economy "may be developing some resilience against headwinds from ... federal spending cuts," Ataman Ozyildirim, an economist at the Conference Board, said.

A steady recovery in housing and rising job gains could be offsetting the cuts, he added. Automatic government spending cuts of \$85 billion kicked in March 1, though their impact may not be felt until April and May when layoffs at government agencies and contractors will likely start. The index is derived from data that for the most part have already been reported individually.

Other reports issued Thursday also pointed to steady improvement. Weekly unemployment applications rose slightly, but the four-week average, a less volatile measure, fell for the fourth straight time to the lowest level in more than five years.

That's a sign companies are laying off fewer workers. As layoffs fall, net hiring usually picks up. □

Nike 3rd quarter net income jumps

BEAVERTON, Oregon (AP) — Nike Inc. said Thursday

its third-quarter net income rose 55 percent as the athletic gear maker's resurgence in North America and easing material costs helped offset continued weakness in China.

The world's largest athletic shoe and clothing company's results beat expectations and its shares jumped 8 percent in aftermarket trading.

Like most global companies, Nike Inc. has been dealing with Europe's fluctuating economy and a slowdown in growth in China. Nike has been working to reduce its inventory in China and reworking its offerings there to adapt to the changing tastes of Chinese consumers. It also has been focusing on growth in North America, selling off less profitable brands like Umbro to focus on core brands like Nike.

The company's quarterly results show Nike's strat-

egy is paying off in North America, but it's still facing weakness in China. North American revenue, which accounts for 40 percent of revenue, rose 18 percent to \$2.55 billion. Revenue in China, which accounts

he added that "for real long-term growth to be solid, it has got to come from China and emerging markets."

In a call with analysts, CEO Mark Parker said the company was seeing progress



Featured is the Nike Air Dictate athletic shoe.

(Handout Photo)

for 10 percent of revenue, was down 9 percent to \$635 million.

"The U.S. business continues to be just phenomenal," said Morningstar analyst Paul Swinand. But

in China, but "we still have more to do before we can capture its long-term growth potential."

Net income for the three months ended Feb. 28 rose to \$866 million, or 73

cents per share. That compares with \$560 million, or 61 cents per share, last year. Analysts expected 67 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Higher labor costs were more than offset by raising prices and easing material costs, the company said.

Revenue rose 9 percent to \$6.19 billion, from \$5.66 billion last year, nearly matching analysts' expectations of revenue of \$6.2 billion.

Nike brand revenue rose 10 percent excluding currency fluctuations, growing everywhere but China and Japan. Growth from other brands including Converse, Nike Gold and Hurley rose 9 percent.

Looking forward, orders for Nike shoes and apparel to be delivered between May and July rose 6 percent to \$9.9 billion. That includes an 11 percent increase in North America, a 5 percent decline in Western Europe and a 4 percent increase in China. □

US homes sales highest in over 3 years

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.

sales of previously occupied homes rose in February to their fastest pace in more than three years, and more people put their homes on the market. The increases suggest a growing number of Americans believe the housing recovery will strengthen.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales increased 0.8 percent in February from January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.98 million. That was the fastest sales pace since November 2009, when a temporary home buyer tax credit had boosted sales. The February sales pace was also 10.2 percent higher than the same month a year ago.

Steady hiring and near-record-low mortgage rates have helped boost sales and prices in most markets. The Realtors' group says the median price for a home sold in February was \$173,600. That's up 11.6

percent from a year ago. More people are also starting to put their homes on the market, which could help sales in the coming

in houses for sale is a good sign. It suggests more homeowners are gaining confidence in the recovery. That could end an inven-



A sale pending sign is outside of a house in Mount Lebanon, Pa. A measure of the number of Americans who signed contracts to buy homes rose in January from December to the highest level in more than 3 years. The increase suggests sales of previously occupied homes will continue rising in the coming months.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

months. The number of available homes for sale rose 10 percent last month, the first monthly gain since April. Even with the gain, the inventory of homes for sale was still 19 percent below a year ago.

Jeff Kolko, chief economist at Trulia, said the increase

tory squeeze that has held back sales in many markets.

"Tight inventory has been a critical issue for the housing market. The limited supply of homes has fueled bidding wars and has meant that buyers have little to choose from

and agents have little to sell," Kolko said. By region, sales of previously owned homes were up 2.6 percent in both the South and the West. Sales fell 3.1 percent in the Northeast and 1.7 percent in the Midwest, possibly in part because of adverse weather.

Even with the gains, sales nationally remain below the 5.5 million that economists associate with healthy markets.

One concern is that few first-time buyers, who are critical to a sustainable housing recovery, are entering the market. They made up only 30 percent of sales in February. That's well below the 40 percent typical in a healthy market. Since the housing bubble burst more than six years ago, banks have imposed tighter credit conditions and required larger down payments. Those changes have left many would-be buyers unable to qualify for super-low mortgage rates. First-time buyers have been hit particularly hard by the changes. □

Weak Oracle sales, Cyprus fears weigh on US stocks

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Stocks closed lower on Wall Street Thursday after Oracle's weak sales results weighed down big U.S. technology companies. Traders also worried about Cyprus running out of time to avoid bankruptcy.

Major indexes followed European markets lower at the open and remained solidly negative all day. The Dow Jones industrial average fell as much as 129 points by mid-afternoon before paring the loss to close down 90 points.

All three major indexes felt the drag from technology stocks after Oracle reported an unexpected decline in sales in its fiscal third quarter. Oracle's results have an outsized impact on other technology stocks because it reports earlier than most of its peers.

European markets had closed sharply lower. The main indexes in Paris and Frankfurt fell 1.4 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively, on fear that the crisis in Cyprus will intensify. The European Central Bank has threatened to end emergency support of the nation's banks next week unless leaders can secure more funding.

Cyprus must raise about \$7.5 billion in the next four days to avoid bankruptcy. Several plans have failed,

including a proposal to tax deposits held by the nation's banks. If the Mediterranean banking haven is unable to secure a bailout, its banks will fail and it could be forced to leave the euro currency. Worries about that scenario first hit stock markets Monday.

"It's amazing how quickly things can turn back to Cyprus and Europe," said Oliver Cross, director of research with Carolinas Investment Consulting LLC in Charlotte, North Carolina. Cross spent his day focused on headlines from Europe, rather than digesting happier news about hiring and home sales in the U.S.

Oracle was the biggest decliner in the S&P 500 index; Juniper Networks also fell steeply. The S&P 500 closed down 12.91 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1,545.80.

The Dow dropped 90.24 points, or 0.6 percent, to 14,421.49. Cisco was the Dow's biggest loser, followed by H-P. IBM also lost

ground.

The Nasdaq, which is weighted heavily toward tech stocks, fell a full percentage point. It closed

cent this month. The S&P 500 has gained 2.1 percent in March, and is 20 points from its own all-time high set in October 2007.



A man walks near Oracle's headquarters in Redwood City, Calif. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

down 31.59 points at 3,222.60.

Despite being down for the week, the Dow remains near a record high. Its run-up has been powered by optimism about the U.S. economy and the Federal Reserve's easy-money policies. The Dow is up 2.6 per-

cent this month. The S&P 500 has gained 2.1 percent in March, and is 20 points from its own all-time high set in October 2007.

Given the market's recent strength, many analysts have been anticipating a sharp decline at the first sign of bad news — whether from Europe, corporate America or the U.S. economy.

The pullback has not materialized, said Troy Logan, managing director and senior economist at Warren Financial Service in Exton, Penn. He said today's losses could have been much worse.

"We thought Cyprus would be the perfect opportunity for the market to step back, but it looks like the market has shrugged it off," Logan said.

Many of his firm's customers are seeking higher-risk investments with higher potential returns, Logan said — an indication that stocks may keep rising.

The U.S. job and housing markets continue to improve gradually, according to economic reports released Thursday morning. The Labor Department said the number of people claiming new unemployment benefits last week was roughly flat near a five-year low. Sales of existing homes rose in February to a three-year high, according to the National Association of Realtors. □

No 'kosher for Passover' Coke in California

NEW YORK (AP) — Coca-Cola may be missing from Passover feasts for the second year in a row in California. The Coca-Cola Co. said Thursday it once again won't be able to make "kosher for Passover" versions of its flagship cola this year

because of manufacturing changes that were made in the state. A spokeswoman for the Atlanta-based company said in an email that Coca-Cola has made "good progress" in developing kosher for Passover drinks in the state but that

it's still monitoring the shelf stability of those products for quality assurance. She said they should be available next year. Coke directed its suppliers last year to change the way they manufacture caramel to reduce levels

of the chemical 4-methylimidazole, or 4-MEI, after California listed it as a carcinogen. Regular Coca-Cola is sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup in the United States, but the Passover version is made with sugar. □

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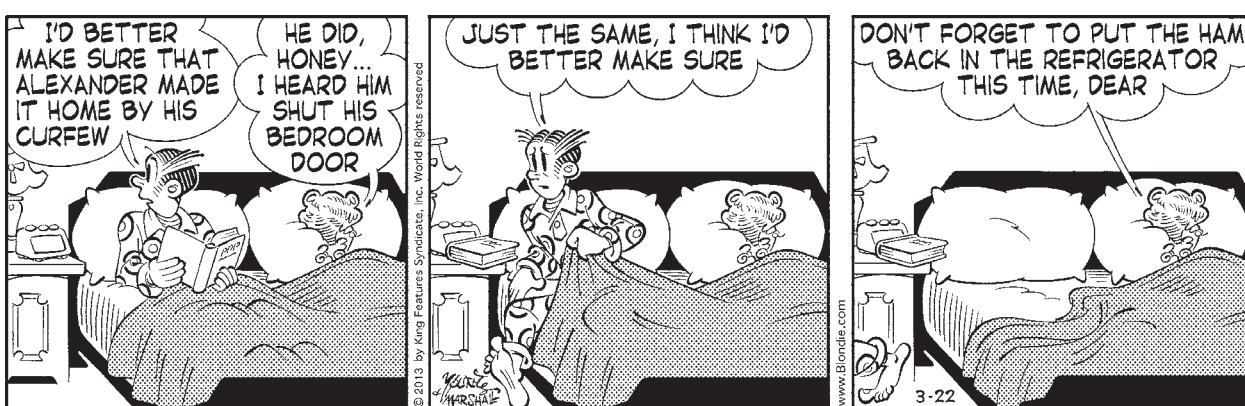
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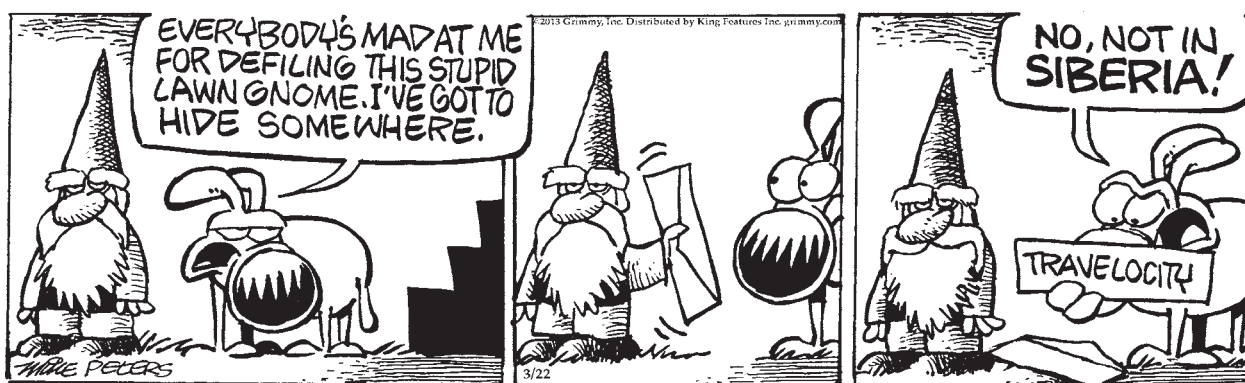
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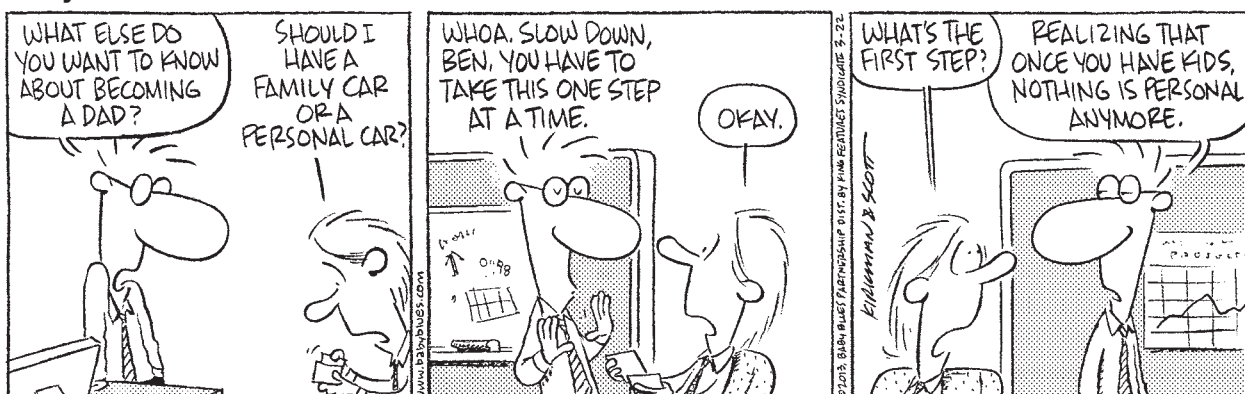
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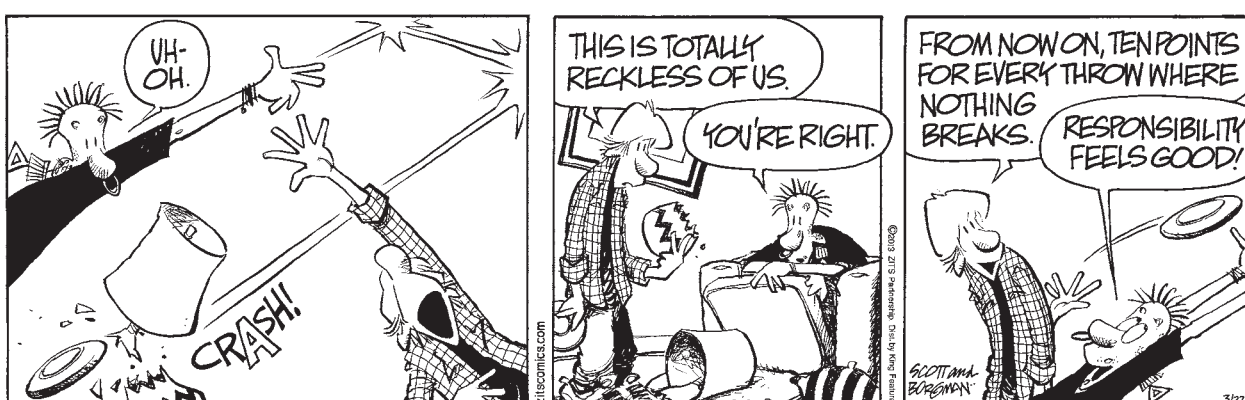
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

								6
		1		4			5	
	8				3		1	9
							7	3
	5		1		7		8	
9	4							
2	6		8				3	
	7			9		5		
3								

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/22

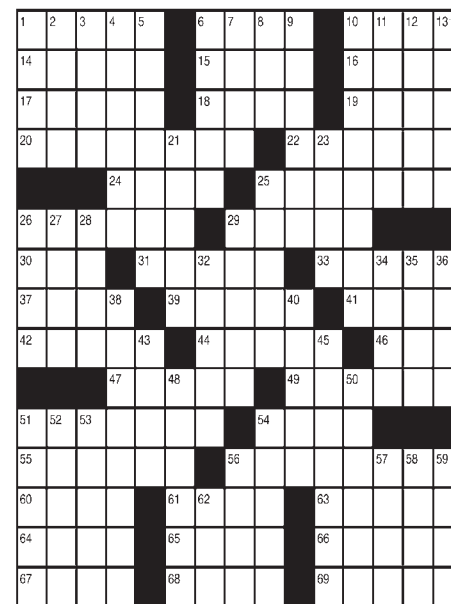
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	4	1	7	5	2	9	6	3
9	7	6	8	3	4	2	1	5
2	3	5	6	9	1	4	8	7
3	2	7	4	8	6	5	9	1
5	8	4	9	1	7	6	3	2
1	6	9	5	2	3	7	4	8
6	1	2	3	4	5	8	7	9
7	9	3	2	6	8	1	5	4
4	5	8	1	7	9	3	2	6

ACROSS

- 1 Battle
- 6 Keep __ on; watch closely
- 10 Storage tower
- 14 One who leads a solitary life
- 15 __ Office; room for Obama's desk
- 16 Aroma
- 17 In the know
- 18 Laundry detergent brand
- 19 Actor Foxx
- 20 Received an inventor's rights to
- 22 Infuriate
- 24 Part of a wineglass
- 25 Overindulgent parent
- 26 Deep narrow valley
- 29 White adhesive
- 30 "Roses __ red, violets..."
- 31 More modern
- 33 School composition
- 37 Enlarge a hole
- 39 Currently
- 41 Record
- 42 Alaska's Palin
- 44 TV's "Perry __"
- 46 Boxer Norton
- 47 Opponent
- 49 Unlawful force or pressure
- 51 Headache chaser
- 54 Alpha's follower
- 55 Glistens
- 56 Stringed instrument
- 60 "Half a loaf is better than __"
- 61 __ tea
- 63 Turn __; avert
- 64 At any time
- 65 Warty amphibian
- 66 Scorch
- 67 Cincinnati team
- 68 Nimble; lively
- 69 Finished



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/22/13

DOWN

- 1 Part of a book jacket
- 2 Dubuque, __
- 3 Small fly
- 4 Denial of religious doctrine
- 5 New Jersey's capital
- 6 Carved tribal pole
- 7 Eager
- 8 Wicked
- 9 Slumbers
- 10 Most regretful
- 11 Perfect
- 12 Building for an Elks meeting
- 13 Tidiness
- 21 Religious doctrine
- 23 Short letter
- 25 Gilbert & Rue
- 26 Automobiles
- 27 Zone
- 28 Close by
- 29 Ride a bike
- 32 Lady
- 34 "For Pete's __!"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

PUGS	GHANA	ALGA
ATOP	RIDER	POOR
SARA	ELDER	PLOT
SHERBET	DONALDS	
KEN	SEWER	
KOALA	SAD	VENOM
RIFE	PAL	RELIVE
ALI	MATADOR	CAR
FERRER	BAD	DELI
TREED	SLY	WORST
DAFOE	HAL	
ECHELON	VINEGAR	
BLUE	CABIN	FAME
BALM	ATILT	UPON
SPAS	LANES	LEST

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3/22/13

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 35 Hairy beasts | 51 Actor Edward |
| 36 Strong desires | 52 Push hard |
| 38 Seattle team | 53 Yearned |
| 40 Singing of an Alpine goatherd | 54 Pal |
| 43 Bring on board | 56 Precious |
| 45 Dingbat | 57 Obey |
| 48 Drops in on | 58 Rim |
| 50 Dried grape | 59 Rex or Donna |
| | 62 Police officer |

Film Notes:

'Ginger & Rosa': A Ticking Bomb

A.O. SCOTT

© 2013 New York Times

Ginger and Rosa are best friends. Vanguard baby boomers born in adjacent London hospital beds in 1945, they are teenagers in 1962, when most of Sally Potter's ardent and intelligent film about the girls takes place. The air around them is charged with anxi-

hungry for Rosa's company as much as for the thrill of illicit experience. Rosa, for reasons that are perhaps too neatly accounted for, is a risk taker who does poorly in school and regards her mother (Jodhi May) with undisguised contempt. Ginger, in contrast, is rebellious in ways that show her to be responsible and



Alice Englert, left, and Elle Fanning in "Ginger & Rosa," a film directed by Sally Potter.

Nicola Dove/A24 via The New York Times)

ety – about the threat of nuclear war, mostly – intellectual restlessness and sexual curiosity. Perhaps it always is that way for 17-year-olds, but every generation acts out its own particular pageant of rage, revolt and disillusionment.

The dark-haired Rosa (Alice Englert), whose father abandoned his family when she was small, is wilder and sadder than Ginger (Elle Fanning), whose flame-red hair stands out amid the ambient browns and grays that signify the pre-swinging, as-yet-un-Beatled England. On some of their adventures – smoking cigarettes, making out with boys, hitchhiking to the seashore – Ginger seems to be following her friend,

disciplined rather than impetuous. She writes poetry and goes to Ban the Bomb meetings and rallies, and seeks out the approval and the company of at least some adults.

She is delighted when her cleverness and commitment are noticed by her gay godfathers, both named Mark (Timothy Spall and Oliver Platt) and by their friend Bella (Annette Bening), an American writer of uncompromising seriousness.

Above all, though, Ginger worships her father, Roland (Alessandro Nivola), who seems, after his own scruffy intellectual fashion, as dashing and romantic a figure as his literary namesake. □

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Universe ages 80M years; Big Bang gets clearer

LORI HINNANT
SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — New results from looking at the split-second after the Big Bang indicate the universe is 80 million years older than previously thought and provide ancient evidence supporting core concepts about the cosmos — how it began, what it's made of and where it's going. The findings released Thursday bolster a key theory called inflation, which says the universe burst from subatomic size to its now-observable expanse in a fraction of a second. The new observations from the European Space Agency's \$900 million Planck space probe appear to reinforce some predictions made decades ago solely on the basis of mathematical concepts.

"We've uncovered a fundamental truth of the universe," said George Efstathiou, director of the Kavli Institute for Cosmology at the University of Cambridge who announced the Planck satellite mapping result in Paris. "There's less stuff that we don't understand by a tiny amount."

"It's a big pat on the back for our understanding of the universe," California Institute of Technology physicist Sean Carroll, who was not involved in the project, told The Associated Press. "In terms of describing the current universe, I think we have a right to say we're on the right track."

The Big Bang — the most comprehensive theory of the universe's beginning — says the visible portion of the universe was smaller than an atom when, in a split second, it exploded, cooled and expanded



George Efstathiou, a European Space Agency astrophysicist speaks to The Associated Press after the press conference at ESA headquarters, in Paris, Thursday, March 21, 2013 in front of the most detailed map ever created of the cosmic microwave background acquired by ESA's Planck space telescope. Efstathiou, who announced the Planck satellite mapping on Thursday, says the findings also offer new specificity of the universe's composition. Associated Press

faster than the speed of light.

The Planck space probe looked back at the afterglow of the Big Bang, and those results have now added about 80 million years to the universe's age, putting it at 13.81 billion years old.

The probe, named for the German physicist Max Planck, the originator of quantum physics, also found that the cosmos is expanding a bit slower than originally thought, has a little less of that mysterious dark energy than astronomers had figured and has a tad more normal matter.

But scientists say those are small changes in calculations about the universe, whose numbers are so massive.

Officials at NASA, which also was part of the experiment, said the Planck

probe has provided a deeper understanding of the intricate history of the universe and its complex composition.

Krzysztof Gorski, a Planck scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, said in a statement that the new results "are giving astronomers a treasure trove of spectacular data, and bringing forth a deeper understanding of the properties and history of the universe."

The Planck space telescope, launched in 2009, has spent 15 1/2 months mapping the sky, examining so-called "light" fossils and sound echoes from the Big Bang by looking at background radiation in the cosmos. The spacecraft is expected to keep transmitting data until late 2013, when it runs out of cooling fluid.

Scientists not involved in the project said the results were comparable on a universal scale to the announcement earlier this month by a different European physics group on a subatomic level — with the finding of the Higgs boson particle that explains mass in the universe.

"What a wonderful triumph of the mathematical approach to describing na-

ture," said Brian Greene, a Columbia University physicist who was not part of the new Planck research. "It's an amazing story of discovery."

"The precision is breathtaking," Greene said in an email Thursday after the announcement.

"The satellite is measuring temperature variations in space — which arose from processes that took place almost 14 billion years ago — to one part in a million. Amazing."

Efstathiou marveled at how the Planck data was such "an extremely good match" to the theory of rapid inflation in the split-second after the Big Bang. Inflation tries to explain some nagging problems left over from the Big Bang, which formed the universe in a sudden burst. Other space probes have shown that the geometry of the universe is predominantly flat, but the Big Bang said it should curve with time. Another problem was that opposite ends of space are so far apart that they could never have been near each other under the normal laws of physics, but early cosmic microwave background measurements show they must

have been in contact.

So a few physicists more than 30 years ago came up with a theory to explain this: Inflation. That says the universe swelled tremendously, going "from subatomic size to something as large as the observable universe in a fraction of a second," Greene said.

Planck shows that inflation is proving to be the best explanation for what happened just after the Big Bang, but that doesn't mean it is the right theory or that it even comes close to resolving all the outstanding problems in the theory, Efstathiou said.

There was an odd spike in some of the Planck temperature data that hinted at a preferred direction or axis that seemed to fit nicely with the angle of our solar system, which shouldn't be, he said.

But overall, Planck's results touched on mysteries of the universe that have already garnered scientists three different Nobel prizes.

Twice before scientists studying cosmic background radiation have won a Nobel Prize — in 1978 and 2006 — and other work on dark energy won the Nobel in 2011.

At the press conference, Efstathiou said the pioneers of inflation theory should start thinking about their own Nobel prizes. Two of those theorists — Paul Steinhardt of Princeton and Andreas Albrecht of University of California Davis — said before the announcement that they were sort of hoping that their inflation theory would not be bolstered. That's because taking inflation a step further leads to a sticky situation: An infinite number of universes. To make inflation work, that split-second of expansion may not stop elsewhere like it does in the observable universe, Albrecht and Steinhardt said. That means there are places where expansion is zooming fast, with an infinite number of universes that stretch to infinity, they said. Steinhardt dismissed any talk of a Nobel. □

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Chinese, super fans boost global movie revenue

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Global movie ticket sales rose 6 percent in 2012 to a record \$34.7 billion thanks to the growing popularity of movies in Asia and higher attendance by diehard fans in the U.S. and Canada.

According to the Motion Picture Association of America, China overtook Japan as the biggest market outside the U.S. and Canada combined, with sales there growing 36 percent to \$2.7 billion.

As a whole, the Asian box office grew 15 percent to \$10.4 billion, while in Europe, Middle East and Africa, ticket sales fell 1 percent to \$10.7 billion. Latin American revenue rose 6 percent to \$2.8 billion.

In the U.S. and Canada, sales rose 6 percent to \$10.8 billion, driven higher primarily by moviegoers who attend once a month or more.

Those super fans represent only 13 percent of the population but bought 57 percent of all movie tickets, an increase of 7 percentage points from a year ago. Super fans grew as a share of the population by 2 percentage points.

About two-thirds of people in the U.S. and Canada saw a movie at least once last year.

And even as the number of 3-D movie screens grew, enthusiasm for the format appeared to plateau. There were 9 percent more 3-D screens in the U.S. and Canada, but revenue from 3-D showings was flat at \$1.8 billion.

Globally, the number of 3-D screens rose 27 percent to 45,500.

The lackluster 3-D result was partly due to the six major studios that make up the MPAA releasing fewer movies in the format. Those studios — Sony, Universal, 20th Century Fox, Disney, Paramount and Warner Bros. — released 36 3-D movies in 2012, down from a peak of 45 in 2011.

Attendance for 3-D movies peaks among teenagers but declines rapidly as people get older, MPAA data showed. □

In 'Admission,' 'Malibu,' Lily Tomlin remembers her mama

MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For a moment, Lily Tomlin was 73 going on 40.

In the comedy "Admission," starring Tina Fey and Paul Rudd, Tomlin plays the young-at-heart seventy-something feminist mother of Fey's university admissions officer.

"When we first sat down, I think I'm their age," Tomlin recalled. "They started asking me about 'Nine to Five' and '(The Incredible) Shrinking Woman.' Ha ... they were like 10, 12 years old (when I did those things)."

Like "Admission," which opens Friday, Tomlin's story is very much that of a daughter and mother. Born Mary Jean Tomlin, the comic and actress has been

paying homage to her mom since the start of her career, when she adopted "Lily" as a stage name.

"(She) lived to be 91 and was somewhat infirmed by the time she was in her late 80s," Tomlin said. "But she still was funny and wonderful and sweet, so I doubt

she felt that old, either."

On her current ABC sitcom "Malibu Country," Tomlin plays the swingin' mother of a newly single daughter (played by Reba McEntire). Tomlin said she asked that her character be renamed Lillie Mae. "I wanted to play someone that age who was just full

stuff. You know: 'You're not married. Don't you want to have children?' ... (These were things) they would ask a female in the early '70s."

Being out, at least within showbiz circles, certainly hasn't hurt Tomlin's career, which includes five Emmy Awards, two Tony Awards,

voice of the inspirational Ms. Frizzle on the 1990s kids cartoon show "The Magic School Bus."

"One little girl stands up, she had to be 9 years old, and she said, 'Well, what do you think you've contributed to the world with your work?' And I was just stopped dead cold. And I



In this Friday, March 15, 2013 photo, actress Lily Tomlin poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

of life."

Much of Tomlin's life has been spent with writer and life partner Jane Wagner.

Contrary to recent reports, talk-show legend Johnny Carson "didn't out me or try to out me," Tomlin clarified. "He was just being a host and saying conventional

a Grammy Award, two Peabody Awards and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

"I was speaking at (the late Texas governor) Ann Richards' school in Austin," Tomlin remembered, noting that the youngsters only knew her as the

finally said to her, 'I hope that I've made people feel connected to one another.'

"And I'd so hoped that she'd had more knowledge of my career so she could say, 'Well, frankly, here's what I think,'" Tomlin added, with a laugh. □



This undated promotional image released by H&M shows entertainer Beyoncé in an ad for H&M's new summer advertising campaign. Beyoncé will be featured on billboards, and in print ads and TV commercials. Associated Press

Beyonce stars in H&M summer ad campaign

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Beyoncé, who seems to be everywhere as she prepares for her upcoming world tour, is going to be seen in even more places. The 31-year-old singer is featured in H&M's new ad campaign, announced by the retailer Thursday. Mrs. Carter, as she's called in the ads, is seen lounging on a beach wearing a sundress, short shorts, a bikini and other key items from

the summer collection.

H&M says the ads, which were shot in the Bahamas, aim to capture the many sides of women, showing Beyoncé as strong, vulnerable, sensual, fun, flirtatious and maternal. Beyoncé said that thanks to the tropical island setting, she felt more like she was shooting a music video than a commercial. She and her husband, Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have a year-old daughter, Blue Ivy. □

Good boy gone bad? Justin Bieber's adult problems

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In just four years, Justin Bieber has gone from fielding innocuous questions about his haircut to denying that he's in desperate need of rehab. Bieber's grown up and into tabloid territory, with his recent troubles making some question whether he's just the latest teen star gone wild. In what could have been his worst week ever, the 19-year-old pop star struggled with his breathing

bers the pressure and hard times that came with being a teen celebrity.

"Justin Bieber's making mistakes that everyone makes and he's probably trying things and exploring things that most kids his age explore, but the problem is he's got 50 paparazzi chasing him around when he does it," 43-year-old Wahlberg said. "When we are 19 and 20, we think we can take on the world and we do forget that there is a lot of life left to live in front of us, and hopefully he'll get

times. I'm human. I'm gonna make mistakes."

Even mistakes seem like new territory for Bieber: Since breaking out at 15 he's seen five of his albums hit No. 1 on Billboard's 200 albums chart and nearly 20 songs crack the Top 40. He's had several world tours, launched a massively successful 3-D movie about his life and made deals that include his own dolls, nail polish and fragrances. He's got a social media presence that includes 52 million likes on Facebook and



Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs during a concert at Bercy arena in Paris, Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Associated Press

and fainted backstage at a London show, was taken to a hospital and then was caught on camera clashing with a paparazzo. Days earlier, he was booed by his beloved fans when he showed up late to a concert. Those incidents come after photos of Bieber appearing to smoke marijuana hit the Web, and some headlines have suggested that the ultra-popular star is going through a famous Britney Spears-style meltdown. Others suggest he's struggling with a more common condition: being a teenager. Donnie Wahlberg, who was just 14 when New Kids on the Block debuted on the music scene in the late 1980s to wild fan craze, said he remem-

bered these times and find his way into a long career and a healthy adulthood." Bieber, his manager and his mother didn't respond to interview requests for this story. But the pressure was evident in the days following his collapse backstage at the O2 Arena, as the Grammy-nominated singer wrote on Instagram that he's sick of the "countless lies in the press" and that he would not be heading to rehab. "I've accomplished more than I could've ever dreamed of, i'm 19 and it must be scary to some people to think that this is just the beginning," he wrote. "I'm a good person with a big heart. ... All this isn't easy. I get angry some-

times. I'm human. I'm gonna make mistakes." But does that leave any time to be a kid? Nick Carter, considered the wildest of the Backstreet Boys, was also the group's youngest member when they began to dominate the music charts in the 1990s, and he recalls the days when he grew mad as an overworked teen who yearned for a normal life. "I remember getting tired. I remember getting burned out and I'm like, 'Let me relax' and you have managers, and the record label ... and then before you know it, the artist gets resentful and starts to revolt against them and that's when you end up with a situation like what's going on," he said, referring to Bieber. □



This Jan. 12, 2012 file photo shows actress Angela Bassett at Sardi's restaurant in New York.

Associated Press

Bassett drawn to action flick because of director

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The idea of working with director Antoine Fuqua was enough for Angela Bassett to appear in the action flick, "Olympus Has Fallen." But things got better for the Oscar-nominated actress when she found out she'd share most of her scenes with Morgan Freeman. "I was really happy to have that and I was intimidated before he even showed up," Bassett admits. That all changed once they started working together on a set outside Shreveport, La., where they recreated parts of Washington, D.C., including the White House.

"He was nothing but professional and kind and warm and fun, and you know, a treat," Bassett recalled.

The actress plays Secret Service Director Lynn Jacobs alongside Freeman's Speaker of the House Trumbull, who assumes presidential power when the president and vice president are incapacitated after a terrorist attack on the White House.

"He's been in so many great roles and he works all the time, you know? Who am I going to be in a world with him? His right hand! And he was at my left. So it was great," Bassett said. She added: "At the end, I couldn't help myself, I just

grabbed him and said, 'I just had a ball, you know, I hope we do it again sometime.' I think he thought the same, so I was humbled by that."

While acknowledging that was a treat, Bassett called the "most salient aspect" of the project was "the opportunity to work with Antoine Fuqua."

"I appreciate the talent that he has and the worlds that he creates," said Bassett about Fuqua, who directed Denzel Washington to an Oscar in "Training Day." She says she was impressed by how he translates pages of the script into each scene. It wasn't until the scenes were shot that she had any idea how they would turn out.

"It was in his head. Even the screenwriters, I was just with them the last couple of days, even they admitted that, you know, they wrote it, but still it was realized in a completely different way than they saw in their own heads. And they were talking to each other," the actress said.

The film also stars Aaron Eckhart as the president and Gerard Butler as a disgraced secret service agent trapped inside the White House during the brutal attack.

Fuqua takes a no-holds-barred approach in its depiction of a terror attack on the nation's capital. □

The Senate's Muckraker



JOE NOCERA

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I'll miss Carl Levin when he leaves the Senate after the next election — and you will, too.

At 78, Levin has represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate for 34 years. He has certainly earned the right to retire on his own terms. But as a longtime Democratic member of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations — and as its chairman since 2007 — Levin has done more than anyone to expose the scams, the conflicts, the wrongdoing and the sheer idiocy of the financial industry from the run-up to the financial crisis to the present day. Every time Levin's subcommittee holds a hearing, it should shame Attorney General Eric "Too Big to Jail" Holder Jr.

The subcommittee's most recent expose took place Friday, when it held a hearing to explore the infamous "London Whale" trades that Acost JPMorgan Chase \$6 billion last year. Months earlier, the Senate Banking Committee, whose members lean on the big banks for major campaign contributions, held its own inquiry into the disastrous trades. There, JPMorgan's chief executive, Jamie Dimon, was treated more like a visiting dignitary than a committee witness. Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, unctuously describing Dimon as "a financial expert," asked him to gauge the "danger of this kind of thing happening at other institutions not as well-capitalized as JPMorgan." Pathetic.

Levin and John McCain, the permanent subcommittee's ranking minority member, didn't even bother to invite Dimon. "We wanted to speak to the people who had the most information," Levin told me. Thus, the subcommittee's witnesses included Ina Drew, who led the division that oversaw the London traders, and Douglas Braunstein, who was the bank's chief financial officer. The combination of Levin's tough questions and a 300-page report by the subcommittee's investigators was brutal. The bank, and Dimon, took a major reputational hit.

For instance, Levin established that JPMorgan knew more about the mounting losses than it let on during the now-notorious conference call in April 2012, when Dimon described the trades as "a tempest in a teapot." The report included examples of the utter contempt for which the bank held its regulators at the Office

of the Comptroller of the Currency. The OCC, meanwhile, never understood the risks involved. Indeed, under Levin's relentless questioning, bank witnesses essentially conceded that their explanation for the losses — that the London trades were part of a hedge that had gone wrong — was not a particularly truthful statement. What the trades were supposed to be hedging was never adequately explained.

("Our executives said what they believed to be true based on the facts they had at the time," said a JPMorgan spokesman in a statement. "In retrospect, the information they had was wrong, and they apologized for this.") The JPMorgan hearing was only the latest in the subcommittee's muckraking efforts. Previous hearings — on the mortgage shenanigans at Washington Mutual, the egregious conflicts of the credit-rating agencies, and Goldman Sachs' efforts to dump its toxic assets on unsuspecting clients — were every bit as illuminating, and as devastating. They often exposed behavior that was at least potentially criminal.

But when I asked Levin about the purpose of the hearings, he did not mention criminal prosecutions, perhaps just as well given our supine Justice Department. "All of our hearings are held with some legislative purpose in mind," he said. For instance, the Goldman hearing led the authors of the Dodd-Frank financial reform law to include language intended to prevent investment banks from hiding that they were on the opposite side of trades being pushed on their clients.

One goal of Friday's hearing, Levin told me, was to "stiffen the spine of regulators. Rule-makers are struggling with what to allow in terms of hedging under the Volcker Rule," he said. (The Volcker Rule is intended to prevent banks from trading for their own accounts.) "This should help them."

Of course, the OCC has bigger problems than that — as the hearing implicitly underscored. It is a classic captured regulator. As American Banker pointed out recently, the Promontory Financial Group, a prominent banking consulting firm founded by Eugene Ludwig, a former comptroller of the currency, recently hired the OCC's general counsel, Julie Williams. And where did the OCC find its new general counsel, Amy Friend? From the Promontory Financial Group!

But I digress.

Toward the end of my interview with Levin, he let slip a tantalizing tidbit. Sometime in the next few months, the permanent subcommittee plans to call the Internal Revenue Service to task for allowing the new spate of 501(c)(4)s — aka the super PACs — to avoid paying taxes. "Tax-exempt 501(c)(4)s are not supposed to be engaged in politics," he said. "It is against the law to do so." Then he added, with a certain undeniable relish, "We're going to go after them."

Oh, boy! □



Democrats, Dragons Or Drones?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Iraq might seem to have been the last place in the Middle East we should have tried to help establish a democracy, but it was the most important.

On this 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, three things are clear. First, whatever happens in Iraq, we overpaid for it in lives and treasure and focus. Second, you can overpay for something decent and you can overpay for total junk. What exactly we overpaid for in Iraq is not yet clear and will be decided by Iraqis. Third, as much as we'd prefer to forget about Iraq, what happens there matters more than ever for the Middle East.

Given its history of brutal dictatorship, Iraq might seem to be the last place in the Middle East we should have tried to help give birth to a self-governing democracy.

In fact, it was the most important. Just look at Syria and you'll understand why. Iraq was made up of all the sects that populate the different Arab countries and have been held together over the last 50 years by iron-fisted dictators. If Iraqis could demonstrate that, once their dictator was removed, the constituent communities of Iraq (Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkmen, Christians) could forge their own social contract for living together peacefully — rather than being ruled brutally from the top down — then some kind of democratic future was possible throughout the Arab world.

That possibility is yet to be fulfilled. We toppled the dictator in Iraq. The people have done the same in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen,

Libya and, soon, Syria, but the same questions hang over all of them: Can they produce stable, decent, representative governments? Can Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians — or secularists and Islamists — live together as citizens and share power? If so, democratic politics has a future in this region. If not, the future will be a Hobbesian nightmare, where the iron-fisted dictators are removed but are replaced by rival sects, gangs and tribes, making impossible the decent governance needed for human development for millions of Arabs.

Today there are no outsiders — no Ottomans, Europeans, Americans, Arab League or U.N. — who want to govern in the place of dictators and no dictators who can sustain their iron fists. So either the communities in these Arab states find a way to share power or the entire Arab world is going to become like one of those regions on medieval maps labeled: "Beware: Here Be Dragons."

That is why the most important peace process in the Middle East today is the one needed between Sunnis, Shiites, Christians, Kurds, as well as Islamists and secularists. Despite our costly mistakes — and all of Iraq's neighbors and Sunni jihadists trying to make Iraq fail (see Tuesday's killings) — we eventually helped Iraqis write their own democratic Constitution to resolve their differences politically, if they want to. None of the other Arab transition states have either an external midwife or internal Nelson Mandela to do this. All are at the start of long, hard struggles.

Anyone interested in what is actually happening in Iraq today should read Roula Khalaf's lengthy 10th-anniversary piece in Saturday's Financial Times, which shows a country progressing and regressing at the same time.

"Outside Baghdad University," she wrote, "I sit in a minibus and chat with students. Alia, a 24-year-old studying for a master's degree in biology, says young people are enjoying access to the Internet, to the dozens of satellite channels that have

been set up in Iraq, and adds that, despite the political struggle between the elite, there is no sense of division between Sunni and Shia at the university. Yet she too is dissatisfied, her family always worried about her whereabouts. ... 'Freedom is important, but it doesn't give me enough,' she says. 'Freedom should be about being able to do what you want, not just talk.'"

That student represents the hope for Iraq. I believe the real agent of change in postauthoritarian societies is something that takes nine months and 21 years to develop. It's called "a new generation," one that thinks and acts differently from its parents'. The first mass democratic protests against Vladimir Putin began almost exactly nine months and 21 years after the end of communism. Can Iraq know just enough political and sectarian stability so a new generation can grow up reading what it wants, traveling where it wants, voting for whom it wants, starting any business it wants and organizing politically as it wants — and, in the process, produce enough Iraqis who think of themselves as citizens willing and able to live in peace with those from other groups. Europe didn't build democracy overnight; Iraq surely can't.

"Iraqi society under Saddam has been traumatized, and the impact of 35 years of authoritarian rule will not dissipate quickly," says Joseph Sassoon, a Baghdad-born professor at Georgetown University and the author of "Saddam Hussein's Ba'th Party: Inside an Authoritarian Regime." It may take two generations for those young voices of Baghdad University to prevail. Or it may take much longer.

Or it may never happen. Any honest look at Iraq today reveals seeds of civil society sprouting and poisonous sectarianism spreading. For their sake, for the sake of stability in the Arab world and for the sake of all who sacrificed so Iraqis could have an opportunity for decent governance, I hope the 20th anniversary is an occasion for a more positive judgment. □

Tatar's Viagra: Horse meat has a following in Moscow

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

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MOSCOW – Uryuk, a chain of Uzbek teahouse restaurants with a dozen locations here, offers two types of horse sausage on its appetizer menu.

Kostanay, a Kazakh restaurant in the city center, serves beshbarmak, a horse stew with noodles, potatoes and onions that is a beloved dish throughout Central Asia, as well as boiled horse filet and horse and potato baked on an iron skillet.

Safa, a company calling itself a "meat-ware factory," supplies halal horse meat to many of Moscow's biggest supermarkets, including sausages as well as cuts for smoking, boiling or baking. It is also easy in Russia to find canned horse meat. All of this is a bit of an outrage to Valentino Bontempi, an Italian chef who runs his own restaurant on an island in the Moscow River, across a footbridge from the Kremlin. This is not because he agrees with the recent uproar in Europe over horse meat but quite the contrary: Russians, he said, have no clue about cooking horse and could be enjoying it so much more.

"In Russia, they don't know the parts, in which place they have to cut," Bontempi said in an interview, a note of exasperation in his voice. "They don't have the culture," he said. "In Russia, it is impossible."

The first item on the chalkboard posted by the door to Bontempi's restaurant is a horse filet grilled on coals – a steak so tender, rich and delicious that a jury of avowed carnivores could easily be left palate-hung in a contest, say, with the porterhouse at Peter Luger's.

Bontempi, who constantly varies his menu to keep guests guessing, also regularly prepares horse tartare – presented as two gently sculptured brown-red lumps of raw meat that spread butterlike on toast-points – as well as bruschetta sprinkled with garlic, melted cheese and

dried, grated horse jerky, each thread providing a deep meaty burst of flavor. While the controversy has piqued new interest in horse meat elsewhere in Europe, with some butcher shops in France and Germany reporting a recent spike in sales, Bontempi, 45, has always served horse dishes, a reflection of his love for the meat developed as a child growing

phragm; horse salami, and tortellini filled with horse meat. Bontempi said that horse meat is leaner than beef and healthier, with higher iron content – evidenced by a mineral quality far more intense than beef.

Despite horse meat being commonly available here, the recent outcry that began in Ireland over horse mixed with meat labeled

horse is a central feature in traditional cuisine and is considered almost mandatory on special occasions. Expert butchers leave no part of a horse unused, and while they might disagree with Bontempi on whose horse cooking is tastier, they readily agree with his view that horse is healthier than other meats. Rafael I. Nasyrov, the owner of Safa, the halal "meat-

tomers from as far away as London who buy his halal horse meat because it cannot be found elsewhere. The relatively cheaper price of horse, he said, most likely provided motivation for some producers to mix horse with beef. But even as a fan of horse meat, he found the dishonesty in labeling unforgivable, he said.

Russia is heavily depen-



Valentino Bontempi prepares a dish of horse carpaccio at his restaurant in Moscow, March 18, 2013. As some in Europe show outrage at eating horse meat, menus across Moscow freely use the meat in for sausage, stew and even tartare.

(James Hill/The New York Times)

up in Lombardy.

"When I was little, my mother – three times a week she prepared horse meat for me," he said.

Once started on the topic, Bontempi could barely take a breath. "It is wonderful on top of pizza," he said. "Hamburger with horse is wonderful."

Among his favorites: bresaola from horse; a horse tagliata – the slices of rare meat topped with salad greens and Parmesan; stracotto, a stew cooked simply with red wine and cinnamon; a hanger steak made from horse dia-

beef has spread to Russia as well. Russian authorities have banned meat imports from Austria after detecting horse DNA in Austrian-made hot dogs.

Last week, Ikea, the furniture giant also known for its restaurants, said that it had found horse meat in sausages in all 14 of its stores in Russia. Ikea had previously detected traces of horse in meatballs in the Czech Republic. Food safety officials said the sausages were made by a Russian company called Remit.

In parts of Russia and throughout Central Asia,

ware factory," said he sells horse, lamb, beef and poultry but that personally he likes horse meat best.

"Horse meat is more useful for health, it has a lower cholesterol content," he said, adding that it also has a lower fat content, and is more easily and quickly digestible than beef.

Nasyrov, who is of Kazakh ancestry, said some Central Asians even attribute Genghis Khan's military successes to horse meat because eating horse meant never needing to slow down.

Nasyrov said he has cus-

dent on meat imports from Europe, and officials here said that they have stepped up inspection efforts in response to the horse meat controversy. Some officials have suggested the European horse meat could contain traces of carcinogenic drugs.

Nasyrov buys much of his horse meat from trusted local producers in Tatarstan, the heavily Muslim region east of Moscow where, he said, residents ascribe even greater attributes to eating horse.

"Horse meat," he said, "is the Tatar's Viagra." □